

FOOD AND
NUTRITION
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

PROJECT YEAR FIVE

October 1, 2002—September 30, 2003

Cooperating Agency:
Academy for Educational Development

Cooperative Agreement No. HRN-A-00-98-00046-00
AED Project No. 21-2620

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
ADC	Agricultural Development Component
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AED	Academy for Educational Development
AIN	Atención Integral a la Niñez
ANRM	Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ARV	Antiretroviral Drug
BASICS	Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival Project
BHRIS	Farmer Credit Associations
CA	Cooperating Agency
CAR	Central Asia Regional Mission
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CDRA	Consortium for Developmental Relief for Angola
CHANGE	Change Innovation/State-of-the-Art Activity Project
CHART	Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training
CMM	USAID Office of Conflict Mitigation and Management
CORE	Child Survival Collaboration and Resources Group
CRG	Commodities Reference Guide
CRHCS	Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CS	Cooperating Sponsor (Title II Implementing partner)
CSB	Corn Soy Blend
C-SAFE	Consortium for the Southern African Food Security Emergency
CSHGP	USAID Bureau for Global Health Child Survival and Health Grants Program
CSR4	Cooperating Sponsor Results Report and Resource Requests
CSTS	Child Survival Technical Support Project
CTC	Community Therapeutic Care
DA	Development Assistance
DAP	Title II Development Activity Proposal
DCHA	USAID Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DP	Food for Peace Development Programs
EE	USAID/Europe and Eurasia
EFP	Emergency Food Product
EGAT	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
EOC	Ethiopian Orthodox Church
EP	Food for Peace Emergency Programs Division
FACG	Food Aid Consultative Group
FAFSA	Food Aid and Food Security Assessment
FAM	Food Aid Management

FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
FEWS-NET	Famine Early Warning System Network
FFE	Food for Education
FFH	Freedom from Hunger
FFP	USAID Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance/Office of Food for Peace
FHI	Food for the Hungry International
FY	Fiscal Year
GAM	General Acute Malnutrition
G-CAP	Office of Central America Programs-Guatemala
GH	USAID Bureau for Global Health
HHF	Haitian Health Foundation
HIDN	Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HKI	Helen Keller Institute
IAPAC	International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care
ICB	Institutional Capacity Building
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDPAS	Iron Deficiency Project Advisory Service
IFAP	International Food Aid Program
IFPRI	International Food and Policy Research Institute
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
INF	International Nutrition Foundation
INHP	Integrated Nutrition and Health Project
IOCC	International Orthodox Church Committee
IR	Intermediate Result
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
KPC	Knowledge, Practice, and Coverage Survey
LAYERS	LQAS Application for Data Entry and Retrieval
LINKAGES	Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding and Maternal Nutrition Project
LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEASURE	Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results Project
MFEWS	Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning System
MIPP	Market Intervention Pilot Program
NEWS	Northwest Early Warning System
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
NFSM	National Food Security Measure
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

NIH	National Institutes of Health
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OFDA	USAID Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance
OICI	Opportunities Industrialization Centers International
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PCI	Project Concern International
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PPC	USAID Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination
PPM	USAID Office of Program, Policy and Management
PROFILES	Process for Nutrition Policy Analysis and Advocacy
ProPAN	<i>Process for Promotion of Child Feeding Manual</i>
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
RCQHC	Regional Center for Quality of Health Care
REDSO	Regional Economic Development Service Office
REDSO/ESA	Regional Economic Development Service Office/East and Southern Africa
REST	Relief Society of Tigray
RFP	Request for Proposal
RFFPO	Regional Food for Peace Office
RUTF	Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food
SARA	Support for Analysis and Research in Africa
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SCN	Standing Committee on Nutrition
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
SOW	Scope of Work
SO	Strategic Objective
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TALM	Technology Assisted Learning Modules
TANGO	Technical Assistance to NGOs
TFC	Therapeutic Feeding Center
TIP	Trials for Improved Practices
TOST	Training of Survey Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VMA	Vulnerability Management Activity
VOICE	Voluntary Organizations Initiative in Central and Eastern Europe/Eurasia
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WISHH	World Initiative for Soy in Human Health
WV	World Vision

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INTRODUCTION

The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project, a USAID cooperative agreement managed by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), completed its fifth year of operation on September 30, 2003. FANTA provides technical leadership in food security policy and programs with a focus on food consumption and nutrition outcomes. Specifically, FANTA provides technical support in policy development, program design and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to private voluntary organizations (PVOs), host country governments, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Global Health (GH)/Office of Health, Infectious Disease and Nutrition (HIDN), USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)/Office of Food for Peace (FFP), and other USAID bureaus, offices, and missions to:

- Improve food security and nutrition program design;
- Help integrate food security and nutrition into the strategic planning process;
- Provide analysis for food security and nutrition policy strategy development; and
- Facilitate technical exchanges and collaborations of activities carried out by stakeholders.

FANTA provides technical assistance to Title II emergency programs and more than 80 development (i.e., non-emergency), nutrition, and food security programs in 27 countries. FANTA implements in-country, on-going direct technical support in six priority countries: Ethiopia, Madagascar, India, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Honduras. FANTA also works with the USAID Bureau for Global Health Child Survival and Health Grant Program (CSHGP) PVOs to ensure comparable standards of program design, implementation, and reporting.

FANTA works collaboratively with various partners representing a broad range of technical expertise, including the Food Aid Management (FAM) Consortium of Title II PVOs, the Child Survival Collaboration and Resources Group (CORE), the Child Survival Technical Support (CSTS) project, Tufts and Cornell Universities, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Freedom from Hunger (FFH), Valid International, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This report covers activities undertaken during Project Year Five (October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003).

FANTA'S INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

FANTA's Strategic Objective (SO) of improved food and nutrition policy, strategy, and program development will be reached through the achievement of its three Intermediate Results (IRs). Specific activities undertaken in Project Year Five are discussed under each IR.

- IR1: USAID's and Cooperating Sponsors' (CS) nutrition and food security-related program development, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation improved;
- IR2: USAID, host country governments, and Cooperating Sponsors establish improved, integrated nutrition and food security-related strategies and policies; and

IR3: Best practices and acceptable standards in nutrition and food security-related policy and programming adopted by USAID, Cooperating Sponsors, and other key stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECT YEAR FIVE

Raising the Bar in Monitoring and Evaluation

FANTA's work in Haiti during Project Year Five produced significant results for the Mission and its Title II partners that can be replicated worldwide. Completion of the Haiti Baseline Survey Report led to the development of a new standard and template for a more rigorous analysis of data obtained in a baseline survey. The Haiti Baseline Survey Report—with complete and precise documentation of the analytical process—is available for download on FANTA's website. In addition, FANTA, using Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS), developed in collaboration with ORC MACRO, a methodology and the software to assist the Mission in monitoring its Title II programs. The LQAS Applications for Information Entry and Retrieval (LAYERS) is a computerized technique, using the latest handheld digital technology that assists USAID missions in their assessment of food distribution, service quality, and delivery under Title II programs. LAYERS enhances program oversight and review by focusing on quality of service delivery, including commodity management, and by provides an automated report production capacity for monitoring. PVOs and missions can now systematically document which components of the Title II activities are successful, which are not, and why. Missions in sub-Saharan Africa, India, and Indonesia have expressed interest in replicating both methodologies for monitoring and evaluation of Title II programs.

Measuring Food Insecurity

FANTA's work on validating the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Household Food Security and Hunger Assessment Tool for use in developing countries produced significant results during Project Year Five with its *Food Insecurity Measurement and Validation Study in Bangladesh* report. Carried out in collaboration with Tufts University, the study concludes that the approach to constructing a direct measure of hunger and food security as used in the U.S. can also be applied in a developing country context and that the current understanding of food insecurity as a theoretical construct is a valid basis on which to design policy and project interventions aimed at resolving the problem in different parts of the world. The module of nine questions constructed for use in Bangladesh passed all the validation tests applied to the U.S. module and is transparent in both its underlying concepts and the meaning of the questions used. The nine questions not only measure the prevalence of food insecurity, but also give an indication of its severity and how it may change over time

FANTA Information-Sharing and Communications

FANTA's IR3 broadens the use of promising practices and acceptable standards in nutrition and food security programming through research, analysis, documentation, and appropriate dissemination, including training and technical assistance, to a wide stakeholder audience.

Working with program partners IFPRI and Tufts University, FANTA produced the first two installments in its new Occasional Paper series for FFP. The papers address the growing risks to food availability, access, and utilization around the world and the potential design and implementation implications of these trends for FFP programs. The first Occasional Paper, *Addressing the “In” in Food Insecurity*, analyzes major trends in poverty and malnutrition and calls for explicit acknowledgement of the threats that constrain food security. *Integrating Relief and Development to Accelerate Reductions in Food Insecurity in Shock-Prone Areas*, FANTA’s second Occasional Paper for FFP, recommends that food aid interventions address vulnerability and risk in the pre- and post-shock context. The Occasional Papers have been widely distributed to USAID and the PVO community.

FANTA published and disseminated five Technical Notes during Project Year Five. *HIV/AIDS Mitigation: Using What We Already Know* applies promising practice concepts to the development of HIV/AIDS programs from the broader food security and development community. *Dietary Diversity as a Household Food Security Indicator* suggests dietary diversity is an appropriate and effective indicator of food access in the measurement of household food security. *The Use of Compact Foods in Emergencies* summarizes the use of compact foods in the early stages of emergencies, as opposed to their traditional design for the treatment of severely malnourished people during crises. *A Review of the Title II Food Aid Program* summarizes the *Report of the Food Aid and Food Security Assessment* and presents suggestions for improving FFP’s management of Title II programs. *Food and Nutrition Implications of Antiretroviral Therapy in Resource Limited Setting* delineates the relationship between antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) and food and recommends best practices for nutrition in ARV program design and management. FANTA makes all its Technical Notes available via Internet download and hard copy.

1. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 1

Improve USAID's and Cooperating Sponsors' (CSs) nutrition and food security-related program development, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation

FANTA works with its partners and other stakeholders in nutrition and food security problem analysis, program design, and performance reporting. FANTA collaborates with FFP, USAID Regional Offices and Field Missions, GH, Title II PVO CSs, and international organizations such as the World Food Program (WFP) and WHO. FANTA also works closely with CSHGP and its partners, the child survival and health PVOs, to support nutrition interventions in child survival and health programs. In addition, FANTA facilitates increased collaboration among child survival and health PVOs, represented by CORE, and Title II CSs, represented by FAM.

1.1. Support to improve development programming

The Title II food aid program constitutes the single largest source of USAID funding focused on decreasing chronic food insecurity among vulnerable populations. Title II maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) revolves around a select set of interventions essential to household food security that have been proven to reduce maternal and child death and disease and combat undernutrition. Title II MCHN programs often directly support proven interventions to improve child survival and nutrition, such as promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, prevention and treatment of preventable childhood diseases, including diarrhea, increased micronutrient consumption, and improvements in ante-natal care. Some Title II MCHN programs also seek to create linkages between health and nutrition activities and the agriculture sector so that improvements in agricultural productivity and income may translate into better nutrition among households. The Title II MCHN programs predominantly target children under the age of two and their mothers, since children under the age of two are at the greatest risk of becoming undernourished and also receive the greatest benefit from preventative interventions.

The Title II Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (ANRM) community-level programs work with small farmers and their families to address one of the principal determinants of food insecurity—insufficient access to food, often due to low and variable agricultural productivity and inadequate access to markets. Title II ANRM programs provide technical assistance and training to promote sustainable farming practices, more productive and diversified farming systems, and improved post-harvest management and marketing; many programs do so in collaboration with international and national agricultural research centers to help disseminate and adapt locally appropriate technologies. Title II ANRM activities often include the improvement of physical resources through the construction of small-scale irrigation and drainage systems, as well as soil and water conservation infrastructure and rural road rehabilitation through food for work programs. These activities increase the sustainability of the production systems, thereby contributing to improvements in the availability of and access to food by poor rural households, leading to improved food consumption and diets.

1.1.1. Technical support to FFP Development Programs (DP)

1.1.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security

FANTA provides technical assistance to strengthen food security and nutrition-related programming areas in Title II development, emergency, and transition guidance. During the first quarter of Project Year Five, FANTA provided technical advice to FFP on the new Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 Development Activity Programs (DAP) policy letter to the Title II PVOs. The policy letter, issued annually, provides specific guidance to Title II CSs and Cooperating Agencies (CAs) for designing, implementing, and reporting on DAPs.

The UN Millennium Project's Hunger Task Force

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted at the United Nations (UN) Millennium Summit in September 2000 are an important set of guidelines for USAID and its partner institutions. The goals included targets for reduced poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by 2015. The UN launched the Millennium Project to recommend strategies for achieving the MDGs and formed a task force for each area. Over a period of three years, the Millennium Project will devise an implementation plan for all developing countries to meet their goals, thereby setting clear objectives to improve the overall human condition by 2015.

FANTA provided the UN Millennium Project's Hunger Task Force—comprised of representatives from academia, the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and UN agencies—with documents and other references on measuring hunger, including FANTA's work on dietary diversity, the National Food Security Measure (NFSM), and outcomes from the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Measurement Symposium.

In addition, FANTA will assist Bread for the World in developing its upcoming hunger report by participating in an initial expert meeting, providing references and contacts, and reviewing the draft report.

1.1.1.b. Review Title II development proposals, results reports, and concept papers

FANTA conducted written technical reviews for 85 proposed and ongoing Title II FFP development programs. The reviews focused on food security problem analysis, program implementation strategy, and appropriateness of the design and M&E plans. FANTA reviewed DAP proposals, CS Results Report and Resource Requests (CSR4s), development relief proposals, DAP concept papers, DAP revisions, DAP amendments, and midterm evaluations. Table 1 list reviews carried out in Project Year Five by program, country, and PVO.

Table 1: Title II DAP Reviews by Type and Country

Program reviewed	Country	PVOs
DAP Proposal	Uganda	SCF, WV, CRS
	Burkina Faso	CRS
	Kenya	CARE, TechnoServe, ADRA, FHI
	Tajikistan	Food Aid Consortium for Tajikistan (FACT): CARE, Mercy Corps, SCF, Counterpart International
	Zimbabwe	CRS for C-SAFE
CSR4	Cape Verde	ACDI/VOCA
	Guatemala	CRS, SCF
	Indonesia	CARE, CRS, Church World Service, Mercy Corps, WV
	Mauritania	WV
	Bolivia	ADRA, FHI
	Rwanda	ACDI/VOCA, CRS, WV
	Benin	CRS
	Bangladesh	CARE, WV
	Kenya	ADRA, CRS, WV, CARE, TechnoServe
	Malawi	CRS
	Nicaragua	ADRA, PCI, SAVE, CRS
Developmental Relief Proposal	Angola	CDRA (CARE, WV, CRS, SCF, Africare)
DAP Concept Paper	Tajikistan	SCF, CARE, Counterpart, Mercy Corps
DAP Revision to Increase Direct Distribution	Kenya	CARE
TAP Proposal	Southern Africa drought response: Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Consortium (CARE, CRS, WV)
	Sierra Leone	CORAD (CARE, CRS, WV, Africare)
DAP Amendment	Guatemala	CRS, SCF
	India	CARE
	Kenya	TechnoServe
	Zambia	Land O' Lakes
Midterm Evaluation Review	Rwanda	ACDI/VOCA, CRS, WV

1.1.1.c. Assist in development of FFP Strategic Objective 2 FY 2004-2008 Strategic Plan and Results Framework

FFP's second SO is "Increased effectiveness of BHR/FFP's partners in carrying out Title II development activities with a primary focus on household nutrition and agricultural productivity." During FY 2001, FFP requested an extension to develop its new Strategic Plan in order to reflect the legislative and operational realities of the program. During FY 2003, FFP continued work on the FY 2004-2008 Strategic Plan, with active participation and support from FANTA.

FFP Five-Year Strategic Plan

During the second quarter of FY 2003, FANTA took part in a two-day Strategic Planning Retreat as part of the ongoing FFP Strategic Plan development process. The purpose was to identify strategic choices and develop a preliminary results framework for the new FFP strategy. Brief presentations were made on the findings and recommendations from FANTA's Food Aid and Food Security Assessment (FAFSA) report, as well as FFP's new Occasional Papers series, produced by FANTA. These Occasional Papers have served as an initial step towards developing a knowledge base to guide FFP food security objectives. The first Occasional Paper, *Addressing the 'In' in Food Insecurity*, discusses the risks that constrain progress towards enhanced food availability, access, and utilization by more directly addressing the vulnerability of food insecure households and communities. The second FFP Occasional Paper, *Integrating Relief and Development to Accelerate Reductions in Food Insecurity in Shock-Prone Areas*, examined the concept of vulnerability and proposed that vulnerability be used as the link to integrating relief and development activities in a new conceptual framework. (See more on the Occasional Paper series below.)

FFP Performance Management Plan

As part of the ongoing process to develop a preliminary performance management plan for the new Strategic Plan, FANTA hosted an all-day meeting with USAID and PVO participants to consult on indicators for FFP's new SO, "Food insecurity in vulnerable populations reduced" and activities and indicators input on the two proposed IRs, "FFP's global leadership enhanced" and "Title II program impact in the field increased."

FANTA also participated in several FAM M&E Working Group meetings to provide technical input to the PVOs as they develop recommendations and feedback for FFP on its SO and IR indicators. The new FFP Strategic Plan merges emergency and development programs and performance reporting with a greater focus on vulnerability to food insecurity. The group identified a small set of indicators for each IR in FFP's new framework. These indicators are expected to capture the expected outcomes or impacts of typical Title II interventions at a slightly higher level.

FANTA participated in a meeting with FFP and the head of the new WFP Division of Results Based Management. The new division will include an Office of Performance Measurement and

Planning. The WFP-FFP meeting was requested to discuss the participants' experiences and perspectives on results-based management, strategic planning, and performance measurement and indicators as they relate to food aid programming. WFP distributed a draft results framework for its new strategy, which coincides in many aspects with the strategy proposed in FFP's concept paper.

Analysis of Title II Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Program Evaluation Results

FANTA continues to support FFP in demonstrating the results of the Title II program—reduced food insecurity in target populations—and in making the case that Title II is an effective resource to achieve development impacts that contribute to MDGs (e.g., reducing hunger and undernutrition). For example, approximately half of Title II development resources—\$188 million in FY 2002—are used by MCHN programs. Title II MCHN programs directly support proven interventions to improve child survival and nutrition, such as promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, prevention and treatment of avoidable childhood diseases (e.g., diarrhea), increase in micronutrient consumption, improvement of antenatal care and, in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS programs. All Title II MCHN programs include child malnutrition reduction as a program objective.

The influence of undernutrition on child infection and mortality is well recognized; undernutrition is a contributing factor in more than half of infant and child deaths in the developing world. FANTA conducted an analysis of Title II MCHN program evaluation results during the third quarter of FY 2003. The analysis clearly demonstrated that the Title II MCHN programs have improved the nutritional status of children in their target populations. Eighty-nine percent of the evaluations that reported on stunting documented a reduction in the prevalence of undernourished children in their target populations. Stunting was reduced by an average of 2.4 percentage points per year.

The analysis also showed that the program's total impact on the prevalence of undernutrition increases with the length of time that the community has benefited from the interventions; the rate of change, particularly for the reduction in the prevalence of stunting, increases dramatically after three years of program intervention.

Based on a method published by researchers at Cornell University, it is possible to predict the number of lives saved and the impact on under-five mortality from reductions in undernutrition in children under five. The FANTA analysis estimates that approximately 47,899 children's lives were saved annually by the Title II MCHN programs that reduce the prevalence of malnutrition. The total number of children who benefited from the reviewed programs was 6.6 million.

1.1.1.d. Provide technical assistance to Institutional Capacity Building grants

FANTA assists Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) grant recipients and USAID report on and demonstrate the results of investments in institutional strengthening and improved capacity. Currently, there are 12 recipients representing a wide range of CSs engaged in development and emergency programming: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA), American Red Cross, Counterpart

International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), World Vision (WV), Food for the Hungry International (FHI), Mercy Corps, Africare, Save the Children Fund (SCF), Land O' Lakes, and International Relief and Development. Activities under the ICB ended in September 2003, and each recipient conducted a final evaluation of activities during the first quarter of FY 2003. FANTA also provided guidance to the ICB recipients on key findings from the evaluations and how these can inform and strengthen future activities. Evaluation findings will help FFP and CSs identify focus areas and formulate strategies and approaches for future institutional strengthening activities.

Technical Feedback on Final Evaluations

During the second quarter, FANTA provided technical feedback on the final evaluations of the following ICB recipients: Africare, Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), Project Concern International (PCI), WV, FAM, CRS, SCF, ACDI/VOCA, CARE, FHI, and Opportunities Industrialization Centers International (OICI). FANTA recommendations ranged from a more strategic approach to capacity-building to focusing on the information most important to FFP. FANTA also provided feedback on ICB Annual Performance Reports for the following PVOs: SCF, FAM, FHI, CRS, Technoserve, ACDI/VOCA, WV, and Africare. Several PVOs, particularly FHI, exhibited promising results, showing significant improvement over the last year in their capacity to train Title II staff. FANTA hosted the meeting of ICB managers in March to discuss final evaluation findings.

1.1.2. Technical support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Field Missions

To target technical assistance in the diverse, multisectoral food security arena, assistance is offered judiciously as requests continue to outnumber the resources to respond. Prioritizing responses to requests are determined in consultation with USAID. Some illustrative criteria are as follows:

- Countries designated by USAID as priority countries or countries of special interest due to the magnitude of their food insecurity or nutrition problem, severity of the problem, and the overall political situation;
- Countries where opportunities exist to leverage investment for other funding sources and donors;
- Strong mission interest embodied by SOs or IRs, high levels of food security and nutrition programming, and a strong interest in collaboration;
- Possibility of technical assistance on problems of more general relevance to the donor and partner community;
- Interest from CSs and willingness to share experiences (i.e., better practices) with other CSs and missions; and
- Assistance will be offered where the lessons learned are relevant to USAID's larger development audience, as well as where an opportunity exists for a multiplier effect with other CSs, host government initiatives, local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and PVOs implementing non-Title II-funded programs, such as in child survival.

1.1.2.a. Provide technical assistance to CSs and USAID Missions

Tajikistan Food Aid Review

For several years, the USDA has supported a variety of programs in Tajikistan with 416(b) and Food for Progress resources. However, the 416(b) program is being phased out of Tajikistan, despite an upward trend in both chronic and acute malnutrition. Within this context, the USAID Central Asia Regional Mission (CAR) in Almaty contacted FFP/Washington to request a food security and food aid review. FFP organized a team made up of an FFP Emergency Programs Division (EP) staff member and two FANTA staff—an agricultural economist and an emergency nutritionist—to carry out the assessment. The objective of the assessment was to consider the implications of USDA's food program closeout on the areas and groups considered most food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable and make recommendations about whether or not Title II resources would be an appropriate component in addressing the prevailing food security issues.

The team consulted with a wide range of key informants, including the Bureau/Europe and Eurasia (EE), FFP, USDA, CAR, the government of Tajikistan, various PVOs and NGOs, and UN agencies including WFP, FAO, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Additionally, the team consulted with PVO headquarters staff and representatives in Washington, D.C. currently working on key Tajik food security issues.

The team conducted three in-country debriefings: in Dushanbe with the Mission Health Officer, via telephone with the Mission Program Officer, and in Almaty at the regional office. It also conducted a debriefing in Washington, D.C. for the USDA and State Department. The report was submitted to FFP and the team continues to provide technical assistance and updates to the food aid implementers in the field.

FANTA also assisted USAID/Almaty in developing a scope of work (SOW) for its Tajikistan agricultural assessment, which will prove important as USAID builds and staffs its Dushanbe Mission and prioritizes program options. Further, FANTA provided significant technical assistance to the Tajikistan PVO community on both Title II and USDA food aid proposals.

Technical Assistance to Save the Children/Mozambique

After reviewing the FANTA publication *Improving Nutritional Impacts of Agricultural Interventions*, SCF/Mozambique requested technical assistance from FANTA to improve the integration of its nutrition and agricultural programming. SCF's efforts in this area are consistent with the FFP recommendation that Mozambique Title II more explicitly address high rates of malnutrition in program areas. FANTA's guidance to SCF included specific programmatic recommendations for improving nutrition outcomes.

Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop in Senegal

In March 2003, FANTA and the USAID/West Africa Regional FFP Office (RFFPO) organized a four-day workshop in Dakar, Senegal on M&E and harmonization of reporting procedures for

Title II-funded programs in West Africa. The 46 participants included M&E specialists from USAID Title II CSs from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, representatives from the West Africa RFFPO in Senegal, FFP/Washington, and the Ghana and Guinea FFP officers. The three main objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Provide a forum of exchange between the PVOs and the regional and Washington, D.C. FFP and FANTA staffs to broaden and improve their understanding of each other's work, programs, activities, procedures, and needs;
2. Discuss the need for increased harmonization and standardization of M&E reporting procedures for Title II-funded programs in West Africa; and
3. Develop a West Africa Regional Indicators List that can be used to provide a more comprehensive picture of food security assistance programs' activities and impact in the region.

The workshop concluded with agreements to continue working towards a group of agreed-upon regional indicators that will be included as an annex of the annual report. Commitments were also made by participants to continue dialog on monitoring and evaluation issues.

Technical Assistance to Regional Food for Peace/Senegal

FANTA provided technical input on the use of stunting as a regional indicator to RFFPO/Senegal, the Regional Emergency FFP Officer, and the Health and Nutrition Regional Indicators Working Group. This group raised the questions of whether stunting was an appropriate indicator for measuring food security, why stunting had been unsuccessful at capturing the impact of nutrition programs in the U.S., and why measuring stunting is preferred over measuring underweight in Title II programs. FANTA provided the following response:

“Prevalence of stunting is preferred as an indicator over prevalence of underweight for Title II programs, because underweight measures the combination of stunting and wasting and is, therefore, more difficult to interpret. Underweight tends to measure thinness in younger children and stunting in older children, so it is difficult to interpret across a range of ages.”

Prevalence of underweight is included as an option for Title II reporting because FFP was aware that many ministries of health use it as an indicator and that the data are more widely collected in general; it is also included in the MDGs. Including this as an indicator option for Title II PVOs implementing an MCHN component allows PVOs to determine which indicator (i.e., stunting, underweight) is easier or preferable to use in the specific context.

1.1.2.b. Improve/strengthen existing program design

No activity to report.

1.1.2.c. Participate in mid-term/final year evaluations of Title II development activities

FANTA provides in-country technical assistance to selected Title II programs where the lessons learned will help strengthen the activities of other nutrition and food security programs in the same country or inform guidelines on better practices for use by the wider food security or nutrition community. A key activity in this process is providing support for conducting mid-term and final year evaluations of Title II programs. FANTA also provides Washington-based desk reviews of evaluation SOWs and assists in identifying evaluation team members.

1.2. Support to improve emergency and transition programming

1.2.1. Technical support to BHR/FFP/EP (Emergency)

Emergency response continues to be an important function of USAID and its partners. Food security and nutrition are critical and often neglected in emergencies. Adequate response during the emergency phases lays the foundation for effective programming in transition and development. Emergencies also occur in the context of ongoing development programs. There is an unmet need for innovative projects that link relief and development concepts in a new conceptual framework called “developmental relief.” FANTA is working with the FFP FFP’s Emergency Program division (EP) and its two teams, disaster response and disaster mitigation and program results, to ensure technical excellence in design, implementation, and M&E and to document lessons learned and promising practices.

1.2.1.a. Improve guidelines on nutrition and food security for emergency and transition programming

FANTA provides technical input in response to inquiries from CSs, DCHA offices, bureaus, and other agencies on nutrition, health, and performance measurement issues related to Title II emergency food aid.

Emergency Therapeutic Food Product

Refugee feeding depends on being able to deliver a nutritionally appropriate diet to refugees quickly and at low cost. In response to a request from FFP, FANTA has been providing technical assistance to develop the specifications for manufacturing a self-contained, high-energy, nutrient-dense emergency food product. Specifications include ingredient mix, formulation and flavoring options, processing parameters, and guidelines on product and packaging characteristics that would maintain shelf stability under severe environmental, handling, and storage conditions. The formula for this product is the same as the current F100 and F75 used in Phase 1 and Phase 2 treatment of severe malnutrition. Currently, these products must be purchased in cash by the USAID Office of United States Foreign Disaster Relief (OFDA). The new product will be available as a Title II commodity and will be much easier to access and more cost-effective. FANTA has provided USAID and ARC Diversified, the dairy plant selected by USAID, with full specifications and nutritional formulas for the products, as

well as advising on packaging and labeling and other issues pertaining to the use of the products in the field. FANTA is advising USAID and the Combat Feeding Group in Natick, Massachusetts on quality testing of these final products. The USAID team includes GH, OFDA, EP, and the Office of Program, Policy and Management (PPM).

Sphere Handbook

Sphere, funded by the UN and bilateral donors, is an initiative managed by four NGO networks: Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, InterAction, Voluntary Organizations Initiative in Central and Eastern Europe/Eurasia (VOICE), and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). Its flagship piece, the *Handbook on Minimum Standards for Emergency Response*, is a widely-used resource for emergency programming. Originally developed in 1998, the handbook was updated in Project Year Five. Over the last year, the sector focal points of the Sphere project have held regional meetings to gather input concerning emergency response standards from the field. In mid-February, FANTA staff participated in the formal team revision of this resource. The subjects of chapters being revised or added include nutrition, food security, and food aid. The review team included representatives from key NGOs, UN agencies, and technical groups with expertise in nutrition and food security. A subsequent meeting, with FANTA participation, finalized the revisions and the handbook is now available on the Sphere website. (See more on the Sphere handbook in Section 1.2.2.b.)

The SMART Initiative

In Project Year Five, FANTA participated in a meeting to discuss training and technical support for the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) initiative. SMART's purpose is to establish a broad-based consensus among international donors, PVOs, NGOs, and policy institutions on standardizing mortality and nutritional status indicators for policy and program decision-making. The meeting focused on a technical support system to build capacity for SMART. The proposal includes such elements as Technology Assisted Learning Modules (TALM) that will contain multimedia electronic courses and training tools, a software package to supplement EpiInfo, access to integrated databases related to humanitarian results monitoring, scientific technical assistance groups with subcommittees for special topics such as nutritional assessment and food and livelihood security, and a website with an electronic library of survey methods, films on topics such as anthropometric measurement, and listserv and teleconferencing capabilities. This meeting was attended by representatives from a number of Title II PVOs and FAM, as well as USAID. The proceedings of the meeting are posted on FANTA's website.

Community Therapeutic Care (CTC)

CTC is a community-based model of care for managing large numbers of severely malnourished children in times of food insecurity and acute stress. CTC promotes community participation and seeks to create a platform for long-term solutions to the problems of food security and public health. The program's key principle is home-treating the majority of severely malnourished children. The approach combines small stabilization centers for medically complicated cases

attached to existing health units, decentralized outpatient treatment at home for children without complications, and decentralized supplementary feeding.

During Project Year Five, FANTA received funding from OFDA and GH for year one of the two-year Monitoring Effectiveness component of the CTC program. The funding is for three specific studies: two of these studies examine critical implementation issues in Ethiopia and Malawi and the third examines the formulation of alternative ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for the treatment of severe malnutrition. The results of these studies are expected to better inform donors and key players about the merits and limitations of CTC prior to advocating replication and scaling up. The CTC program is managed by Valid International, a United Kingdom-based consulting firm focusing on operational research in emergency situations. Under the direction of Valid, a multidisciplinary team is conducting operational research during emergency responses carried out by international NGOs and local partners. Valid and its partners are conducting specific studies to:

- Examine the CTC model in different contexts and monitor factors affecting quality, impact, efficiency, effectiveness, and cost;
- Collect quantitative and qualitative data that will allow evaluation against internationally recognized standards as well as highlight critical implementation issues;
- Investigate the feasibility of locally producing RUTF to reduce costs and increase sustainability and investigate alternative culturally appropriate RUTF formulations; and
- Compare the CTC model with standard inpatient care models for managing severe malnutrition.

In May, the FANTA CTC Technical Manager visited Northern Ethiopia to assess progress to date in the Wollo province CTC study. The study examined the impact and effectiveness of the CTC model in a large-scale emergency. The target population is highly dispersed and difficult to access. The outcomes of this study are expected to guide better practice protocols and lessons learned that will inform operational agencies on how to treat acute malnutrition in large target populations where traditional therapeutic feeding centers cannot meet the needs. Furthermore, Ethiopia experiences recurrent food insecurity, and local authorities and the Ministry of Health do not support therapeutic feeding centers because they are often poorly implemented, costly, and unsustainable. The CTC model provides an alternative intervention that seeks to address these concerns. The key objectives of the visit were to:

- Review and design study protocols;
- Assess the progress of setting up a CTC program in a large-scale emergency situation;
- Discuss and address critical implementation and data collection issues;
- Ensure deliverables are submitted on timely basis; and
- Provide feedback on the program progress to USAID/Addis and the CTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The trip report and other supporting documents are available on FANTA's website.

1.2.1.b. Review Title II emergency and short-term development proposals, results reports, and concept papers

FANTA provides written technical reviews of selected FY 2003 and FY 2004 Title II emergency and developmental relief proposals, concept papers, and results reports. The reviews focus on problem assessment, program design, M&E plans, and appropriateness of indicators for emergency and transition programs.

Zimbabwe Market Intervention Pilot Program

During the third quarter of Project Year Five, FANTA provided comments on an innovative proposal by the Consortium for the Southern African Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE) for a market intervention pilot program (MIPP) in Zimbabwe. The MIPP is an attempt to use food aid to address food insecurity in urban areas in an emergency context. The pilot program seeks to improve the food security of a specific target group (i.e., the urban poor) that is usually not reached by standard food security targeting only rural food insecure, even in emergency situations. The pilot program may generate lessons learned that will be useful for the expansion of such interventions in other urban areas in and out of Zimbabwe.

1.2.1.c. Assist results reporting for BHR/FFP Strategic Objective 1 (FFP/EP)

FANTA contributed to the draft SO1 narrative for the 2002 FFP Annual Report. In collaboration with the SO2 team, the FFP annual report was edited and compiled by FANTA during the first quarter of Project Year Five. FANTA will work with the SO2 team and FFP during future reporting periods to ensure collaboration from the outset.

1.2.1.d. Develop and revise database system for FFP/EP

FANTA works with FFP and AMEX International, its institutional contractor, on the continued refinement of the Title II emergency program results database. EP has agreed that database maintenance will eventually be the responsibility of AMEX, FFP's institutional support contractor, and the respective FFP officer. During the first quarter, FANTA assisted EP with its FY 2002 Annual Report, drafting the narrative report and providing full analysis of data for the report.

1.2.2. Technical support to Cooperating Sponsors and USAID Field Missions

1.2.2.a. Provide technical assistance to CSs and Field Missions

In India

Early in the second quarter, FANTA staff traveled to India to assist USAID/New Delhi in designing an accelerated phase-down of the Title II development program. FANTA worked not only with the Mission, but with CRS and CARE, two CSs with substantial Title II funding and program outreach. Combined, these Title II programs reach nearly 8 million beneficiaries

annually, with program components in agriculture, MCHN, education, and general relief. Due to concerns about genetically modified foods, the Indian government disallowed importation of Corn Soy Blend (CSB), one of India's main food aid commodities, and India's Title II Food Aid Program experienced an interruption in the provision of CSB. FANTA developed different scenarios to deal with the loss of this commodity for both CSs' Title II programs. (See more on CSB in Section 1.4.3.)

Supplemental Feeding for Pregnant Mothers and Children Under Two

Based on FANTA's review of its FY 2004-2008 DAP proposal, FHI/Kenya altered its ration-targeting scheme to provide supplemental feeding to all pregnant mothers and children younger than two years old, as well as to acutely malnourished and growth-faltering children aged two to five years. In its initial proposal, FHI planned to provide rations only to high-risk pregnant women and malnourished children aged newborn to five years and to graduate MCHN beneficiaries from rations after six months or a maximum one year. Based on FANTA's suggestions, FHI's new ration-targeting approach better serves the preventive and incentive uses of rations.

1.2.2.b. Improve existing emergency and transition program design

Sphere Handbook

The Sphere initiative, managed by the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and three other networks, has been conducting a global review to revise and improve the *Handbook on Minimum Standards for Emergency Response*. Throughout the process, FANTA has offered continuous technical guidance, which will result in the establishment of a more precise level of basic guidelines for emergency programs to follow. (See more on the Sphere handbook in Section 1.2.1.a.)

M&E for Developmental Relief

FANTA, in collaboration with FFP/Washington, USAID/Luanda, USAID/Africa Bureau, and the Consortium for Developmental Relief for Angola (CDRA)—CARE, CRS, WV, SCF, and Africare Title II CSs—designed and conducted a workshop in Angola to provide technical assistance on the development of an M&E plan for the Title II program in Angola, as well as the new FFP developmental relief model. In the process, FANTA assisted EP, FFP Development Programs (DP), and the Africa Bureau in clarifying a joint set of requirements for M&E and reporting for the new and evolving developmental relief model.

The workshop, held in June included representatives from CDRA, FFP/Washington, and USAID/Luanda. The outcome of the workshop was a greatly improved draft M&E plan including indicators appropriate for transitional situations, a data collection methodology that addresses the EP questions included in the six-month questionnaire used for reporting, a source of nutrition data for the areas and a plan to conduct their own nutrition survey for the final evaluation, questions for the baseline survey, and a plan for the final evaluation with an extensive section on lessons learned in program design, consortium management, M&E, and

implementation. The revised M&E plan will provide FFP with a significant contribution to the developmental relief model's evolution.

Conflict and Health Issue Paper

FANTA's responses to a GH questionnaire on health and conflict linkages are being used by USAID's Office of Conflict Mitigation and Management (CMM) to produce an issue paper on conflict and health in participating missions' countries, according to USAID's new requirements that all missions address conflict in their country strategies.

1.2.2.c. Participate in problem assessments for and evaluations of Title II emergency activities

Emergency/Conflict Database

FANTA participated in a meeting with USAID's GH, Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination (PPC), PPM, OFDA, and the U.S. State Department in March to review the development of an emergency/conflict database housed at the University of Louvain in Belgium. Building on an existing emergencies database dating back to 1900, located at www.cred.be, the proposed database will house information on conflict-related emergencies. The conflict database's ability to track the impact of emergency interventions with health and nutrition indicators aids in reporting and analysis of conflict-related emergencies. The database utilizes the indicators collected by the SMART Indicators process that began in 2002. Support for the database has come from OFDA, among others, and additional support may come from USAID and the State Department.

1.3. Support to improve Child Survival and Health Grant programming

FANTA continues to improve the design, implementation, and M&E of CSHGP, with a focus on nutrition interventions through technical assistance to PVOs and CSHGP.

1.3.1. Technical support to the Child Survival and Health Grant Program

CSHGP Mini-University

FANTA participated in CSHGP's week-long Child Survival and Health Mini-University at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. FANTA held consultative discussions with child survival and health PVOs on their Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPs) and offered technical advice through presentations and one-on-one meetings. FANTA reviewed six DIPs, attending their review sessions over the course of the week. FANTA also presented two three-hour technical sessions on nutrition and child survival.

To USAID

FANTA provided recommendations to USAID on its update of the “Nutrition and Micronutrients” chapter of the *CSHGP Technical Reference Materials*, strengthening the technical content of the complementary feeding section.

KPC Training of Survey Trainers

FANTA finalized an agreement with partner FFH to design and develop a Knowledge, Practice, and Coverage Survey (KPC) training of survey trainers (TOST) curriculum publication with the CORE M&E Working Group. The publication, to be completed in Project Year Six, will focus on how to prepare and conduct KPC survey training within the context of child survival and health programs.

1.4. Country-specific activities

FANTA provides long-term technical support in six priority countries—Ethiopia, Madagascar, India, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Honduras—to help ensure continuity and follow-up on technical recommendations.

1.4.1. Ethiopia

The large Title II program in Ethiopia, representing approximately 40 percent of the Mission’s portfolio at approximately \$18 million in 2002, is implemented by CARE, CRS, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), SCF, and WV. The activities of the five CSs cover a variety of food security program interventions: agriculture, natural resource management, microenterprise, water and sanitation, MCHN, and humanitarian assistance. Additionally, the Ethiopia Mission has a Development Assistance (DA)-funded bilateral portfolio focused on MCHN and HIV/AIDS.

The overall goal of the Ethiopia Mission’s Integrated Strategic Plan for 2002-2006 is “Reduction in Chronic Food Insecurity” against a backdrop of increasing vulnerability and destitution. Under the previous country strategy, the Mission focused on the availability (i.e., production) and access (i.e., income) aspects of food security. The third food security aspect, nutrition (i.e., utilization), received less attention. However, malnutrition remains pervasive in Ethiopia; according to the 2000 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the prevalence of stunting in Ethiopia is the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa at 49 percent. The Mission recognizes that in order to achieve its food security goal, it must give increased attention to nutrition. The combination of the new Mission focus and FANTA’s mandate to develop and implement nutrition and food security strategies and programs led to the development of an enhanced program for maternal and child nutrition.

During Project Year Five, FANTA provided technical support in the following areas:

With the USAID Mission

The Mission requested FANTA participation in the discussions leading to harmonization of Title II programs with the other activities supported by the various Mission SOs. FANTA staff traveled to Bahir Dar, capital of the Amhara Region, to meet with other Mission partners and discuss those issues.

FANTA identified and contracted a health and nutrition epidemiologist for a period of four months to help coordinate emergency response, assess the critical health and nutrition measures to implement, and ensure that the sources of information used in targeting priority zones adequately identified the most affected areas. Periodic reports from the field have helped the Mission put in place response procedures to ward off malaria and measles epidemics and have improved the deciphering of the various data generated about the emergency situation.

FANTA selected a sample of therapeutic feeding center (TFC) sites for rapid appraisal visits in Project Year Six. The visits by Mission food monitors will evaluate the quality of services delivered at the sites. FANTA analyzed the lists of TFCs provided by the Mission and derived a sample using LQAS principles.

With Other Stakeholders

FANTA was invited to participate in the Essential Nutrition Actions seminar organized by the Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding and Maternal Nutrition Project (LINKAGES). FANTA's presentation concentrated on activities related to furthering a nutrition agenda in the country, including support for PROFILES workshops, generating a nutrition strategy with the Ministry of Health, nutritional care for and support of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), community therapeutic feeding in emergency settings, and monitoring methodologies for detecting pockets of general acute malnutrition (GAM) in emergency situations.

In June 2003, FANTA made a presentation to representatives of Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO, various bilateral partners, and national and international NGOs to describe its work in Ethiopia since 1999 and consult on future activities. The presentation resulted in a decision to conduct another PROFILES workshop, adapting it to the evolving needs of the country and disaggregating the data from national level to regional level. FANTA will be collaborating on this activity with AED's LINKAGES Project.

FANTA is proceeding with the analysis of data collected for the Joint Title II Baseline Survey, which ended in late August 2003. After inputting and validating the data, the survey's contracted coordinator, AGRIDEV, delivered the full dataset on CD-ROM in mid-September 2003. In conjunction with the USAID Ethiopia Mission, AGRIDEV, and the Title II partners, FANTA will finalize a report on the survey in Project Year Six.

In May-June 2003, FANTA pilot-tested a modified LQAS study design in collaboration with CRS to assess the method's feasibility in identifying emergency nutritional situations, as measured by weight-for-height anthropometric data among children six months to five years of age. Two modified LQAS sampling methodologies were tested: a 67-by-three cluster design and a 33-by-six cluster design, each nested in a 30-by-30 conventional cluster sample. FANTA is analyzing and will report on the data.

FANTA assisted the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) in identifying a consultant to perform needs assessments in zones where EOC wants to implement a new DAP. During the fourth quarter, FANTA briefed the International Orthodox Church Committee (IOCC) on EOC's prospects for DAP renewal, as IOCC intends to support EOC's submission by providing a U.S.-based consultant to finalize DAP preparation and recruiting an IOCC project director if the DAP is approved.

1.4.2. Madagascar

The Title II program in Madagascar, valued at approximately \$7.5 million in FY 2002 and representing over 25 percent of the Mission budget, is implemented by ADRA, CARE, and CRS. The activities of the three CSs cover interventions in agriculture, maternal and child health, water and sanitation, food for education, and other child feeding and humanitarian assistance. The Title II program also includes disaster mitigation and urban development activity in the capital city, Antananarivo.

During Project Year Five, FANTA provided technical support in the following areas:

With the USAID Mission

Following FFP's approval of the new Title II programs, each CS must conduct a baseline survey before initiating field interventions. By undertaking the baseline survey as a joint initiative between the CSs and the Mission and using standardized methods and indicators, Title II programs will be better integrated among each other and with the other activities supported by the Mission, detailed information on local conditions will be more readily available, and CSs will enhance contributions to Mission-level indicators. This will likely result in additional studies on the factors affecting the outcomes of the interventions, in order to more fully understand which interventions work, which do not work, and why.

To assist the Mission, FANTA analyzed the comparative costs of undertaking the Title II baseline survey jointly and independently. FANTA submitted a detailed evaluation of cost-sharing scenarios among the various Mission SOs and by the individual CSs, assuming the baseline is done jointly. FANTA conducted a workshop to examine the parameters along which a joint baseline could be conducted, determining that 726 households per CS—totaling 2,178 households across all three CSs—should be visited in order to document a reduction of 10 percent in stunting over five years. The total cost of the joint baseline would be \$189,000, about half of which would be funded by the PVOs, and the other half of which would be funded by the Mission. If financial participation by the Mission is declined, CSs will have to conduct their baseline surveys separately using funds budgeted in their individual DAPs.

LAYERS is a monitoring approach developed by FANTA to help USAID missions provide oversight to their Title II program. In addition to monitoring food distribution, LAYERS helps assess the quality of service delivery in the field. After a recent audit of the Madagascar Title II program revealed a need for revisions to the food aid program, FANTA presented an overview of LAYERS operations and potential benefits to USAID and cooperating sponsors. (See more on LAYERS in Sections 1.4.3. and 1.4.4.)

With the CSs

FANTA staff traveled to Madagascar in January 2003 to examine the extent to which future Title II programs can integrate with the activities of other Mission partners; review the Title II CSs' plans for the final evaluation of their current Title II programs; and improve the cross-integration of Title II programs, particularly M&E components of future DAPs. A significant outcome of this trip was an agreement between all the Title II CSs and the Mission on a list of common indicators. These programs will now report regularly on these indicators to the Mission and FFP.

1.4.3. India

India has the largest program in the Title II development portfolio, valued at approximately \$94 million in FY 2002 and representing over 55 percent of the Mission budget. The program is implemented by CARE and CRS, and the bulk of interventions address MCHN. CARE/India's project, the Integrated Nutrition and Health Project (INHP), reaches approximately 7 million women and children in eight states. In addition to a health and nutrition program, CRS/India's Title II food security program includes natural resource management, agriculture, food for education, and other child feeding and humanitarian assistance activities. Both CSs began new five-year Title II programs in FY 2002.

During Project Year Five, FANTA provided technical support in the following areas:

With the USAID Mission

FANTA reviewed the experiences and research on graduation and exit strategies in development programs, with emphasis on food-assisted MCHN programs. The review draws out lessons learned and recommendations for India's Title II programs and supports USAID/New Delhi and its PVO partners in developing graduation mechanisms and strategies. Partner Tufts University conducted the desk review of exit strategies and submitted a completed draft of the final report, "Program Graduation and Exit Strategies: Title II Program Experiences and Related Research."

Due to the unwillingness of the U.S. government to certify CSB to be free of genetically modified components, India's Title II Food Aid Program experienced an interruption to the provision of CSB. This provided an opportunity for USAID to re-examine the Title II strategy and the government and program beneficiaries' needs. The Mission requested that FANTA review the program and identify opportunities to manage changes in the programming environment and develop phase-down strategies. (See more on CSB in Section 1.2.2.a.)

In January and February 2003, FANTA staff traveled to India to review the food aid program and recommend graduation strategies for the program's food and resources from the country. FANTA provided technical guidance to USAID/New Delhi and its partners on how to manage the impending changes to food aid commodities and their implications for program outcomes. FANTA's final assessment supported USAID in a plan for CARE/India, the largest PVO-run development food aid program in the world, to accelerate the phase-down of its Title II program by 2006. The report emphasized the need to strengthen government and community capacities to maintain the provision of food rations to community centers and continue access to health and nutrition education and services, despite the reduction in food aid resources

FANTA provided comments to FFP on the Title II program amendment submitted by CARE/India. FANTA also participated in internal and external review meetings of the program amendment. The amendment reflects CARE's efforts to phase down its Title II program, accelerate graduation of program areas, and manage the loss of CSB caused by the government of India's decision not to allow importation of CSB while maintaining the gains achieved in this program. The amendment incorporates recommendations made by FANTA in its January review of the program and its March report on managing rapid change and accelerating phase-down of the India Title II program. (See more on CSB in Section 1.2.2.a.)

The USAID/New Delhi Mission expressed interest in adapting FANTA's LAYERS tool to more effectively fulfill Title II oversight responsibilities in India. LAYERS combines a simple random sampling approach for selecting sites to be visited with a computerized data entry system using handheld computers and an automated report production facility. By shifting the focus of monitoring from commodity management to other programming quality issues, LAYERS helps missions streamline the review of their Title II programs and focus on the quality of services delivered in the field. In September, FANTA led an assessment of the LAYERS tool's potential in the India context with objectives to improve the Mission's field site monitoring representation and streamline program staff duties without compromising the quality of their oversight. A FANTA desk review of CS programs included discussions with staff about commodity flows, reporting formats, and staff workloads. (See more on LAYERS in Sections 1.4.2. and 1.4.4.)

With the CSs

FANTA finalized two reports on the impact of food aid reductions on the CARE and CRS Title II programs: "A Scenario for Managing Rapid Change and Accelerating Phase-Down of the CARE/India Title II Program" and "A Scenario for Managing Rapid Change and Graduation in the CRS/India Title II Program." The reports were distributed to USAID/Washington, USAID/New Delhi, and PVO partners. The products of a collaborative effort between FANTA, the Mission, and PVO partners, these reports help inform programming and resource decisions for the India Title II program.

Responding to USAID/New Delhi interest, FANTA collaborated with IFPRI on a concept note for a joint activity. The possible FANTA-IFPRI shared project would examine the transition from Title II food commodities to government commodities in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program area where CARE has been operating and identify options for

strengthening food safety net systems in India. The activity will involve a combination of research and technical assistance through the transition.

1.4.4. Haiti

The Title II program in Haiti, valued at approximately \$20 million in FY 2002 and representing 40 percent of the Mission budget, is implemented by CARE, CRS, SCF, and WV. The CSs implement activities in water and sanitation, maternal and child health and nutrition, food for education, microcredit, infrastructure development, and humanitarian assistance.

FANTA's work in Haiti during Project Year Five produced significant results for the Mission and its Title II partners. Completion of the Haiti baseline survey report led to the development of a new standard and template for a more rigorous analysis of data obtained in a baseline survey. In addition, FANTA collaborated with ORC MACRO using LQAS to develop a methodology and software to assist the Mission in monitoring its Title II programs. PVOs and missions can now systematically document which components of the Title II activities are successful, which are not, and why. This activity has enhanced FANTA's mandate for M&E capacity-building by providing a clear method for transferring analytical know-how in database management and report preparation. It also places FANTA as a key interlocutor in Haiti on issues related to food security, health, nutrition, agriculture, and education.

During Project Year Five, FANTA provided technical support in the following areas:

With the USAID Mission

In Project Year 2003, FANTA's Haiti team worked on developing the LAYERS application to help the USAID Mission oversee the Title II programs. LAYERS will allow the Mission to make regular, program-wide judgments on the quality of services delivered by the Title II CSs in their areas of interventions. The LQAS methodology is complemented by a fully computerized data-entry and -retrieval system, with information captured by the Mission's food monitors using small handheld computers. FANTA worked with ORC MACRO to develop the second phase of the LAYERS application in Haiti, adding a report production module to enhance the Mission's capacity to aid improvement of its partners' field services. In earlier months, FANTA and ORC MACRO had streamlined the personal handheld computer-based data entry system to the point at which it could be adapted locally and rolled out in various countries on a standalone basis. The LAYERS application team outlined the report production system's layout, initiated system programming, and demonstrated the module in Haiti in September.

During the last quarter of Project Year Five, FANTA effectively implemented and validated the full LAYERS system, trained local staff, and conducted pilot tests of the analytical procedures. FANTA trained USAID field monitors and an information technology team in the use of personal digital assistants, or PDAs, for data collection and upload. FANTA, ORC MACRO, and Mission representatives revised the LAYERS questionnaire for use in Haiti. FANTA will provide technical assistance via e-mail or as part of a follow-on visit to incorporate the LAYERS application as a tool for Haiti CSs to monitor individual Title II programs. (See more on LAYERS in Sections 1.4.2. and 1.4.3.)

FANTA made a presentation on the full application of the LAYERS methodology to the USAID partners in Haiti, including Mission and CS staff. Subsequently, the Mission requested FANTA determine the applicability of the approach to the monitoring of other Mission activities and by the CSs to complement their existing M&E systems. Several missions have shown interest in using this application, including the Ethiopia, Ghana, and India Missions.

With the CSs

In 2002, FANTA, in close collaboration with the Mission, IFPRI, Cornell University, and WV, initiated a study of the effectiveness of targeting malnourished children under five for food rations (i.e., recuperative approach), compared to universal targeting of all children under two (i.e., preventative approach). In addition to promoting a better targeting of nutrition activities in Haiti, this research will constitute an important contribution to the study of effective interventions to prevent malnutrition, with implications beyond Haiti. FANTA staff participated in a workshop with partners IFPRI, Cornell University, and WV staff on the findings of the deliverable from the study, “Development of a Behavior Change Communications Program to Prevent Malnutrition in the Central Plateau of Haiti: Results and Challenges from a Formative Research Study.”

During the third quarter of FY 2003, the IFPRI-Cornell University-WV team submitted to FANTA two important deliverables. First, a qualitative study of the patterns of infant feeding and care in the Hinche area of Plateau Central was finalized and submitted. This report served as a primary source for preparing the second deliverable: training and communications materials. Those materials will inform community health workers and mothers of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices. The materials were produced in French, English, and Creole and are available on compact disc.

FANTA hired an emergency response specialist to adapt CARE’s Northwest Early Warning System (NEWS) model to the other CS programs operating in the country. The current NEWS system uses DAP extension agents who collect data on critical early warning indicators such as rainfall, crop conditions, and market prices by continuously crisscrossing CARE’s area of intervention. Replicating this model throughout the country significantly increases early warning coverage, improving the capacity of public authorities to monitor and respond to slow onset disasters.

The specialist hired by FANTA to help CRS, SCF/US, and WV adapt and implement the NEWS model in their own areas of operation ended his consultancy in September 2003. Several important lessons were learned on how to establish early warning systems in a country like Haiti, and the final report contains important clarifications on both the advantages of the NEWS model and its limitations. CSs will proceed to implement the methods developed by the specialist, and FANTA will continue supporting the process at the CS level and by helping the Mission incorporate the model into the Haiti FEWS-NET operation currently in development.

FANTA provided technical assistance to the Mission to set up a Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS-NET) in Haiti. Recent changes in FEWS-NET expand coverage from sub-

Saharan Africa to other parts of the world. FANTA continues to provide technical assistance to the Mission and the Haitian government on early warning, with a focus on promoting the link between FEWS-NET and existing early warning platforms such as the Office of Civil Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture.

FANTA staff undertook a data analysis for the Haiti Joint Baseline report. These included multi-variate analyses to assess the influence of key behaviors and household and caregiver characteristics on child nutritional status. The analysis will allow each CS, as a participant of the joint baseline, to generate results specific to its situation. A FANTA team traveled to Port au Prince in February to present the initial results of the baseline report and continue technical support to the Mission and Title II CSs.

FANTA completed the final draft version of the Haiti Joint Baseline report in August. The report presents an analysis of data for the four CSs (i.e., CARE, CRS, SCF, WV) currently operating in Haiti and a detailed assessment of factors related to education, maternal and child health and nutrition, and agriculture and natural resource management. Final joint baseline results were discussed during a September visit to Haiti, and assistance was provided to CSs for finalization of individual baseline reports.

At the request of the USAID Mission, FANTA staff organized a presentation of the baseline results in September. The findings generated an intense debate in the audience, which included high-level staff from UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and several other bilateral organizations operating in Haiti. The full measure of this model, which holds great potential for lessons learned and overarching programmatic recommendations, will be revealed when final evaluation data are collected towards the end of the Title II programs and compared to baseline data.

With Other Stakeholders

FANTA reviewed the report on the withdrawal of schools from the school feeding program in Haiti and provided impact of the guidance on the results to the local consulting firm, IntellConsult, to help finalize its report. Based on the results compiled from the study, lessons learned can potentially be used as evidence to promote Food for Education (FFE) on a global scale.

At the Mission and U.S. Ambassador to Haiti's request, FANTA visited the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) for one week in September to assess the available MCHN program data and explore possibilities for analyzing the impact of HHF interventions on children's nutritional status. HHF has been working in Haiti's southern region since 1989, providing services ranging from child survival to pre- and post-natal care and collecting population-based demographic and intervention data (e.g., weight-for-age Z-scores of children under five years old) with regular frequency.

The data have been organized as discrete files, with certain analytic programs available for producing summaries from related data tables. FANTA worked closely with the HHF data programmer to develop a program that would produce one data file containing the desired demographic, intervention-related, and outcome variables related to children under five,

according to the parameters of any defined time period. The longitudinal and population-based nature of the dataset may provide the basis for a case-study to analyze the potential impact of a public health program on the nutritional status of children, as assessed by weight-for-age Z-scores used to assess progress towards the MDG. In particular, HHF data could be analyzed to describe the fluctuations in children's malnutrition, determine the factors most associated with presence of children's nutritional status, and produce lessons learned and recommendations for program operation. FANTA will more conclusively assess the dataset's potential and general quality once it is fully compiled in a statistical software program.

1.4.5. Honduras

In FY 2001, CARE/Honduras began implementation of a follow-on Title II program, valued at approximately \$5.1 million in FY 2002, that focuses on expanding coverage of its integrated activities in agricultural productivity, health and nutrition, rural infrastructure development, and local government strengthening.

During Project Year Five, FANTA provided technical support in the following areas:

With the USAID Mission

USAID/Tegucigalpa requested FANTA assistance in developing the SOW and managing a marketing study in support of the Title II program in Honduras. FANTA suggested additional issues to address, including an assessment of the Title II partners' capacity to carry out potential market-based interventions, identification of appropriate partners, and an assessment of how Title II marketing activities can be best complemented by DA-funded market programs in Honduras and how Title II marketing activities can be integrated into USAID/Tegucigalpa's new Strategic Plan.

With the CSs

FANTA assisted CARE/Honduras and USAID/Tegucigalpa in expanding the current DAP to incorporate more activities on food access, particularly agricultural marketing. In response to a CARE-funded qualitative assessment, the mid-term evaluation, and FANTA's food security review and strategy, CARE is attempting to strengthen the capacity of the farmer credit associations (BHRIS) by hiring several accounting- and management-skilled technical staff to work directly with the BHRIS and provide training. CARE has also hired an agricultural marketing programmer. FANTA recommended a marketing study to clarify demand preferences and market potential for current and new products. Consistent with FANTA's recommendations included in the food security strategy, CARE is also linking with a DA-funded project that establishes business centers in different locations around the country and works to improve market linkages.

1.4.6. Nicaragua

As a result of Hurricane MITCH, food aid programs in Nicaragua increased in size and complexity. FANTA has been working with USAID/Managua since December 2000 when a FANTA-funded food security specialist was dispatched to Nicaragua to provide long-term technical assistance to the USAID Mission and Title II CSs.

With the CSs

FANTA developed an SOW to carry out long-term MCHN technical assistance activities in Nicaragua through technical support to NicaSalud, a federation of 24 international and national PVOs that work in community-based health. The activity will be funded by USAID/Managua. Beginning in 1998 as a consortium of PVOs working in response to damage caused by Hurricane Mitch with support from USAID/Managua, NicaSalud's mission is to enhance the health of vulnerable groups by improving health indicators, promoting primary healthcare, establishing a standardized M&E system, and supporting coordination and collaboration among its members. Over the next five years, FANTA will provide technical guidance to NicaSalud in a number of areas to support:

- M&E capability, especially in Atención Integral a la Niñez (AIN)/Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI);
- Scale-up of AIN/IMCI;
- Prioritization of operations research to improve the quality of AIN/IMCI services;
- Design and implementation of the operations research agenda;
- Improving NicaSalud's technical capacity to use anthropometric measurements for assessing nutritional trends; and
- Learning and dissemination of AIN/IMCI best practices.

FANTA reviewed M&E indicators and plans for the AIN/IMCI program for the second Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival (BASICS) Project II. BASICS was designed specifically for the Central America region and managed by the local PVO network, NicaSalud, to implement integrated child health and nutrition programming, such as growth monitoring and nutrition education. FANTA staff worked with BASICS II to integrate more elements of complementary feeding—continued breastfeeding, frequency of feeding, and dietary quality—into a data collection instrument. With the newly established NicaSalud sub-agreement, FANTA will now work to advance AIN methodologies in Central America.

2. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 2

USAID, host country governments, and Cooperating Sponsors establish improved, integrated nutrition and food security-related strategies and policies.

Under IR2, FANTA seeks to strengthen the relationship between USAID's health and nutrition, agriculture, economic growth and poverty alleviation, and food security programs in order to maximize their nutritional impact on target populations, especially children and women.

2.1. In Washington

2.1.1. Implement strategies for improving women's nutrition

In most countries and especially in the developing world, women are major income earners, food producers, and family caretakers. Therefore, poor women's nutrition has major social, economic, health, and development implications. According to WHO and UNICEF, high prevalence of maternal mortality is the definitive negative characteristic of deficient women's health and nutrition. Nearly 600,000 women in developing countries die each year from pregnancy-related causes. Of all the human development indicators, the greatest disparity between developed and developing countries is the risk of maternal mortality.

FANTA takes a lead role in coordinating efforts to improve women's nutrition among USAID and its PVO partners by facilitating collaboration and disseminating better practices and program options to the wider development community. FANTA works closely with Title II and child survival PVOs that have expressed the need for technical assistance. FANTA works with USAID pillar bureaus in Washington, D.C., missions, and regional offices and establishes improved, integrated strategies and policies related to women's nutrition and health.

Women's Nutrition Indicator Guide

In Project Year Four, FANTA began developing an indicator guide for women's nutrition to facilitate consistent measurement and standardize data collection and analysis. In addition to providing detailed information about individual indicators, the guide addresses the causes and consequences of women's malnutrition and identifies a range of potential interventions that address the main nutritional risks issues faced by women. The FANTA guide focuses on problem assessment and M&E. Methodological challenges in the monitoring and evaluation of women's nutrition interventions are addressed and guidelines on the recommended methods for data collection are also provided. In Project Year Five, FANTA made significant progress in completing a final draft of the *Women's Nutrition Indicator Guide* for external review in Project Year Six.

Compendium of Indicators for Evaluating Reproductive Health Programs

During Project Year Five, the *Compendium of Indicators for Evaluating Reproductive Health Programs*, a Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results (MEASURE) Project publication, was completed. FANTA organized and hosted a working group of PVO partners and other experts to provide technical input to the women's nutrition section of the compendium. Work on the compendium pointed to the need for a more comprehensive guide on women's nutrition indicators and especially on data collection and analysis, which will be met by the *FANTA Women's Nutrition Indicator Guide*.

Maternal Nutrition and Health Module for PROFILES

FANTA completed the final two maternal nutrition and health modules for the PROFILES advocacy software on the effect of anemia on maternal mortality and perinatal mortality. The two models complement the previously completed models on anemia and productivity and maternal mortality as a function of vitamin A deficiency as measured by night-blindness. The full module is available for use in all PROFILE applications and events and includes a sample calculator for quantifying the impact.

Women's Leadership Training in DAPs

During the second quarter, FANTA helped draft language to explain the role of women's leadership training in Title II development programs and identified example indicators from the types of funded activities for inclusion in a report to the House Appropriations Committee on USAID Activities related to the Women's Leadership Training Directive. Funds provided under this directive may be used for various aspects of women's leadership training, including training women to participate in local, regional, and national political processes; facilitating women's involvement in reconciliation and reconstruction processes in conflict and post-conflict societies; and building capacity of women-led PVOs to advocate for reform of local legislatures, judicial systems, and security agencies. Almost all of the Title II food aid programs include community capacity-building activities, and some specifically focus on increasing women's participation and leadership in community organizations.

2.1.2. Provide technical support to G/PHN and USAID

Commodities Reference Guide (CRG)

In June 2001, the FFP requested that FANTA undertake a general review and update of the 2000 version of the Commodity Reference Guide (CRG). FANTA's work on the CRG began in April 2002 and has included three main components: development of commodity fact sheets for non-fat dry milk and the newly available cereal milk blend commodities, guidance on lactose intolerance and micronutrient deficiencies, and a general review of the CRG text for accuracy and consistency of information. In September, FANTA produced 100 hard copies of the CRG for FFP to distribute at the Food Aid Managers Conference in Washington, D.C. The CRG is a

widely used resource describing the commodities and their use in different types of development and emergency programs. It can be found on the USAID and FANTA websites.

2.1.3. Improve the food security framework – Food Aid and Food Security Assessment (FAFSA)

Commissioned by FFP and PPM and published in 2002, the report of the Food Aid and Food Security Assessment (FAFSA) has strengthened FANTA's ability to be a key advisor on future programming and management adjustments to the Title II food aid program. The FAFSA assessed the Title II development programs and their progress in achieving the food security goals laid out in FFP's *Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper*, issued in 1995.

Technical Note Number 6

The sixth issue of FANTA's Technical Notes series was *A Review of the Title II Food Aid Program*, summarizing the report and highlighting the assessment's main findings. Among the findings addressed by the Technical Note are a greater focus of the Title II development program on the most food insecure regions and countries, increased programmatic emphasis on improving agricultural productivity and household nutrition, better results and results reporting, and better collaboration among partners. (See more on Technical Notes in Sections 3.4.1., 3.4.2., and 3.9 and in Table 5.)

2.1.4. Review health and nutrition in emergencies

Refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) continue to claim a large portion of USAID's resources. FANTA's work on the health and nutrition needs of distressed populations in emergency situations attempts to address some of the gaps in crisis intervention design.

Community Therapeutic Care (CTC)

The three-part Monitoring Effectiveness component of the CTC program involves an investigative study on alternative RUTFs for the severely malnourished, a descriptive study of CTC in the context of the Ethiopia famine, and a comparative study in Malawi of the CTC program's home-based care versus the standard center-based care.

FANTA and Valid International prepared a detailed USAID concept paper for the second year of CTC program funding. The project's proof of concept phase has shown very promising results: much better coverage than standard feeding programs, community support, improved access as a result of decentralization, and earlier treatment to prevent and more easily treat malnutrition. The outcomes are almost exclusively positive, with low mortality and few drop-outs. The second stage will focus on expanding and rolling out CTC in Malawi and Ethiopia and will seek to consolidate the lessons learned to date. FANTA is continuing to work with Valid to find viable mechanisms to scale up CTC and build capacity among PVOs and local partners. (See more on CTC in Sections 1.2.1.a. and 1.2.2.b.)

2.2. With Field Missions

2.2.1. Support food security strategy development

With support from the Regional Economic Development Service Office (REDSO)/East and Southern Africa (ESA), FANTA works in partnership with regional institutions to improve nutrition and food security in East and Southern Africa. FANTA's work supports REDSO/ESA's SO7: "Enhanced regional capacity to improve health systems." FANTA works collaboratively with various regional institutions and coalitions, such as the Regional Center for Quality of Health Care (RCQHC), providing technical and material support to build regional capacity for improving health systems.

FANTA's Work Reflected in Zambia Assessment

In January 2002, an FFP/Africa Bureau team visited Zambia to conduct an analysis of food security, health, and nutrition and to assist the USAID Mission in its efforts to design its next country Strategic Plan. The Africa Bureau team's report and recommendations reflect the use of several of FANTA's promising practice guides and programming approaches, including dietary diversity as an effective and user-friendly food security indicator, the use of the PROFILES advocacy approach to raise awareness of the importance of nutrition with host country policy-makers, and nutrition care and support for PLWHA. The following recommendation was based on FANTA's work in dietary diversity:

"To ensure that the linked program activities above are having a positive impact on household food security and nutrition, the performance indicator—*dietary diversity*—should be added to the IR 5.1 list for monitoring and measurement. Dietary diversity—the number of individual foods or food groups consumed over a given period—has been shown to be a good indicator of the food access dimension of household food security."

The team also recommended the use of PROFILES to draw attention to the severity of nutritional status in Zambia:

"USAID/Zambia with USAID/Washington should support [the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC)] with technical assistance for PROFILES...an important advocacy tool to sensitize policy makers to Zambia's nutrition problems, development implications and potential solutions."

While discussing HIV/AIDS issues, the team stated that it found two very useful HIV-related documents being widely used by the government, Mission, and PVOs in Zambia. One of them was FANTA's *HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care and Support*.

Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning System (MFEWS)

Recent experiences in Central America with drought and the coffee crises have highlighted the fragility of the region to economic and natural disasters. These experiences also exposed an

inability to detect and respond to food security problems early enough to protect households from income losses and avoid worsening the region's nutritional situation.

Although the magnitude of the drought and the coffee crises and the severity of their impact caught the region's governments and donors by surprise, this was not due to a lack of information or to a shortage of actors producing food security-related information and concerned with food security issues and responses. The absence of a system or institution to bring together the various actors involved with food security issues at the country or regional level to focus on vulnerability and early warning of food security problems is the more fundamental problem.

In response to this problem, USAID's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau and the Office of Central America Programs-Guatemala (G-CAP) decided to fund a Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning System (MFEWS), covering up to four countries in the region: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. During June and July 2003, a FANTA team, including participants from FEWS NET and USDA, traveled to the region to work with G-CAP and the other missions to design the MFEWS activity, which will assist the countries in the region better anticipate and manage their vulnerabilities to economic and natural disasters. The draft activity design was completed in August 2003, and the MFEWS project should commence implementation in FY 2004.

The MFEWS design includes several important components. Priority attention will be given to building networks of key actors at the country and regional levels and improving vulnerability management, encouraging the more effective use of existing information to provide earlier warning of emerging food security problems and improve response, and strengthening national capacities to collect, analyze, and report on food security information, with special attention devoted to filling key information gaps.

With MFEWS in place, the social safety net programs in the region (i.e., social investment funds, food assistance programs) will be better targeted, using more sophisticated measures of vulnerability, prior to and in response to crises. Countries will also do a better job of understanding, preventing, mitigating, anticipating, and responding to food security-related crises as a result of the local and national networks of key government and civil society actors.

2.2.2. Support the Regional Economic Development Services Office/East and Southern Africa (REDSO/ESA)

During FY 2003, FANTA expanded its support to REDSO SO7 with a focus on strengthening regional capacity to implement critical food and nutritional interventions addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Continuing its partnership with RCQHC and initiating a partnership with the Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS), FANTA supported regional efforts to operationalize HIV-nutrition guidance through pre-service training for health practitioners, national guidelines, and counseling materials. In response to regional demand for information about food and nutrition implications of antiretroviral therapy (ART), FANTA synthesized existing information and research results into program guidance on ART and nutrition, paving the way for RCQHC to develop practical tools and training for service

providers on this issue. Also in Project Year Five, FANTA began work on strengthening food aid interventions to address HIV/AIDS in the region.

Handbook: Developing and Applying National Guidelines on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

During the third quarter of FY 2003, the final version of *Handbook: Developing and Applying National Guidelines on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS* was disseminated to stakeholders in the East and Southern Africa region, including national AIDS control programs, government ministries, PVOs, UNICEF, and others working in nutrition and HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with the RCQHC, FANTA wrote parts of the handbook and technically and financially supported its production. The handbook is available for download on FANTA's website.

Several countries in the region requested guidance on the subject, and some are already using earlier drafts of the handbook to develop national guidelines. As part of its work supporting development of national guidelines for HIV/AIDS nutritional care and support, FANTA reviewed drafts of the *Uganda National Guidelines on Nutrition and HIV*. Other countries, including Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, and Swaziland, have either completed national guidelines or are in the process of developing or pre-testing them.

With support from USAID/Kampala, FANTA is assisting the Uganda team develop guidelines and a booklet of key messages. FANTA also prepared a report on the multi-sectoral process used in Uganda to develop the guidelines for a new SARA publication on promising practices in multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS interventions, produced for the USAID-PVO Steering Committee on Multisectoral Approaches to HIV/AIDS.

Pre-Service Training

During Project Year Five, FANTA technically and financially supported development of a pre-service training module on HIV/AIDS and nutrition for use in medical, nutrition, and public health educational institutions in East and Southern Africa, in collaboration with RCQHC and the LINKAGES Project.

FANTA wrote three of the nine overall module sessions, entitled *Nutritional Management of HIV/AIDS-Related Symptoms*; *Management of Food and Drug Interactions in HIV/AIDS Therapy*; and *Food Security Components in HIV/AIDS Nutritional Care and Support*. The module was used in a Southern Africa regional workshop on pre-service training in HIV/AIDS and nutrition that was conducted for representatives from Southern Africa educational institutions.

FANTA also began developing a pre-service training module on nutrition and HIV/AIDS for nursing schools and midwife training programs in East, Central, and Southern Africa with the LINKAGES Project and regional partner CRHCS.

Counseling Materials on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

In response to stakeholder demand, FANTA is developing counseling materials on nutrition and HIV/AIDS in collaboration with RCQHC and the LINKAGES project. FANTA, RCQHC, and LINKAGES supported a consultant assessment of opportunities and needs and met with REDSO in Uganda during the fourth quarter to discuss the activity and plan next steps. Based on the assessment results, FANTA and its partners will develop materials based on the Uganda context and support regional adaptation.

Food Aid to Mitigate HIV/AIDS Guide

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has serious implications for household and community food security. In response to the proliferation of devastating consequences of the pandemic, HIV/AIDS has become a focal point of development strategies and programs in nearly every sector (e.g., health, agriculture, education, commerce), including food aid-supported programs. Widespread and oftentimes extreme food insecurity among HIV/AIDS-affected households and communities has led many programmers to view food aid resources as a direct and appropriate tool for mitigating HIV/AIDS impacts. However, a question repeatedly raised, yet not sufficiently addressed to date, is: how can the numerous, wide-ranging health, nutrition, and socio-economic impacts of HIV/AIDS be effectively mitigated and how are scarce food aid resources best used to address these impacts and do no harm?

FANTA is revising the *Potential Uses of Food Aid to Support HIV/AIDS Mitigation Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa* summary report to include stronger programmatic focus and provide recommendations for major program areas (e.g., MCHN, agriculture). During Project Year Five, FANTA conducted interviews to identify obstacles to targeting, intervention points, adjustments to ration size and mix, and uses of food aid (e.g., food for work, food for training) to strengthen household and community capacity. FANTA also met with RCQHC's nutritional advisor about support in the development of counseling materials, input to sections of the guide, a regional meeting, and dissemination.

2.3. With Cooperating Sponsors

No activity to report.

2.4. With Host Country Governments

2.4.1. Advocacy and capacity-building through nutrition analysis – PROFILES

PROFILES

FANTA participated in a PROFILES strengthening meeting at AED to brainstorm on medium- and long-term development of PROFILES and discuss dissemination of the completed PROFILES assessment. Participants chose the following priorities:

- Development of a marketing plan;
- Creation of a PROFILES technical advisory group;
- Capacity-building to increase the number of people proficient in all aspects of PROFILES; and
- Identification of core funds source.

2.4.2. National Safety Nets

Brazil

President Lula's centerpiece Zero Hunger program reflects his campaign and election night promises to end hunger in Brazil. U.S. government assistance to the Zero Hunger program will serve important developmental and humanitarian goals and will be politically well received as an indication of support for the Brazilian people's aspirations and elected government. USAID asked FANTA to identify an expert in domestic and international social safety net programs to participate on a team of USAID and USDA staff. The team was charged with two responsibilities during its trip to Brasilia and the Northeast in March: assist the Brazilian government in defining how it would meet its Zero Hunger objectives, particularly through the use of a food stamp program modeled on the U.S. program, and assess the technical expertise, training, and related needs of the Zero Hunger program in order to develop a U.S. government assistance proposal. The team recommended a technical assistance fund housed in USAID, providing at least \$5 million over three years.

Mexico

The Mexican government proposes the implementation of a cash-transfer program for approximately 300,000 poor households. The program will use four different mechanisms for the safety-net transfer. The government has requested proposals to design an evaluation of the different approaches. FANTA provided technical input on the collection of dietary data to researchers at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico for the program evaluation program design.

3. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IR 3

Improve USAID's and Cooperating Sponsors' (CSs) nutrition and food security-related program development, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation

The third IR assists GH fulfill its primary global leadership function. FANTA focuses on promoting promising practices for programs in women's, adolescent, and child health and nutrition. While IRs 1 and 2 target a defined set of stakeholders (i.e., USAID, PVOs, host country governments), FANTA broadens the use of promising practices and acceptable standards in nutrition and food security programming through research, analysis, documentation, and appropriate dissemination including training and technical assistance to a wide stakeholder audience under IR 3.

Through this IR, FANTA supports priority research in programmatic and operational issues and expands the institutional capacity of key stakeholder groups (i.e., PVOs, USAID field missions, UN agencies including WFP, SCN, and UNICEF) to assess, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate food security and nutrition policies and programs.

3.1. Develop Food Security Indicator and Promising Practice publications

The technical focuses of the Nutrition and Food Security Indicator and Promising Practice guides are identified and executed through a consultative process with FANTA's stakeholders. The guides address USAID's key nutrition and food security program and policy priorities and reflect the primary action areas identified by FANTA's Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

3.1.1. Improving the Use of Food Rations in Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programs Guide

With technical input from FANTA, CRS's staff in East and Southern Africa and Guatemala began studying the uses of direct distribution in food security programming. The study includes a component to gather information on use and effectiveness of the FANTA draft rations guide, which will help determine the need for further revisions. FANTA helped develop the SOW and provided technical support to the CRS study. (See more on the direct distribution study in Section 3.3.2.)

3.1.2. Vitamin A Programming Guide for Food Security Programs

No activity to report.

3.1.3. Graduation and Exit Strategies Review

FANTA worked with USAID/New Delhi and its Title II partners, CARE and CRS, to plan the phase-down of U.S. food aid. Drawing from the India experience, FANTA will develop lessons learned from this experience into standard graduation strategies for Title II programs. FANTA also drafted a report on a food-assisted development program graduation and exit strategies in India. (See more on FANTA activities in India in Section 1.4.3.)

3.2. Improve agriculture, consumption, and nutrition linkages

FANTA collaborates with the Partnership to Cut Hunger in Africa and the Africa Bureau to improve the Partnership's conceptual framework linking hunger- and agriculture-based development and identify priority agricultural strategies that best effect hunger reduction in Africa. FANTA also helps field missions improve the linkages among agriculture, consumption, and nutrition and sits on the technical advisory board of the USAID-funded Agriculture and Nutrition Advantage project.

USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Agriculture Strategy

FANTA participated in the Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) Bureau's cross-agency consultative meeting and science and technology sub-theme meeting and commented on the new USAID Agricultural Strategy. FANTA's review included key recommendations on how to address food insecurity, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the role of PVOs, and the need for more operations research and dissemination.

Other Activities

FANTA presented to the SCF Learning Group meeting in Boston and led a discussion on agriculture and nutrition linkages based on FANTA's *Improving the Nutrition Impacts of Agriculture Interventions*. FANTA also participated in Bread for the World's consultation on planning and initiating work on the next Hunger Report, which included representatives from FAO, the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development, and Michigan State University.

3.3. Approaches to measuring household and individual access to and consumption of food

Access to and consumption of adequate and appropriate food by households and individuals are important components of food security. FANTA is developing user-friendly, cost-effective approaches to measure changes in dietary quantity and quality and feeding behaviors at the household and individual levels. USAID and PVO stakeholders have identified this work as a high priority. The results of the collection of technical assistance, facilitation, and operations research will enable USAID to use this information for program M&E and influence data collection instruments such as the KPC and DHS surveys.

3.3.1. Measuring improved household access to food

3.3.1.a. Dietary diversity

An understanding of household access to food as a significant part of overall food security is important to USAID missions and partners. Obtaining detailed data on food consumption at the individual or household level is time-consuming, costly, and technically difficult. Dietary diversity can potentially be used by Title II food security programs as a proxy indicator of household access.

FANTA published its fourth Technical Note during Project Year Five, entitled *Dietary Diversity as a Household Food Security Indicator*. Household food security is an important measure of well-being. Although it may not capture all dimensions of poverty, the inability of households to access enough food for a productive healthy life is an important indication of their level of poverty. However, obtaining detailed data on household food access—such as 24-hour recall data on food intakes—can be time-consuming and expensive and requires a high level of technical skill both in data collection and analysis. FANTA is carrying out a set of activities

aimed at developing user-friendly, cost-effective approaches to measure changes in dietary quantity and quality at the household and individual level. The Technical Note summarizes a recent analysis showing that dietary diversity is a good indicator of the access dimension of household food security and provides implications for food security programming.

3.3.1.b. Adaptation of the U.S. Household Food Security Scale approaches in developing country contexts

This FANTA activity is designed to validate the USDA Household Food Security and Hunger Assessment Tool for use in developing countries and to test its usefulness as an impact indicator for the access component of food security in food and nutrition program evaluations. The concepts of food security and hunger measured using this approach will be validated against measures of household income and dietary caloric adequacy to see if it can be used to measure changes to access or hunger categories in nutrition and food security program evaluations.

FANTA is implementing field validation studies with Cornell University and Africare in Burkina Faso and with Tufts University and WV in Bangladesh. One of the principal objectives of the field validation studies is the documentation for the PVO and USAID audience of a practical, formative research process or protocol that can be applied by local researchers and planners in a variety of settings to develop measures of food security appropriate to their cultural, ecological, and economic contexts.

Results from Burkina Faso

Cornell researchers completed a draft report on their findings from the second and third rounds of cohort data collection in Burkina Faso. The report, “Relations among Wealth, Food Insecurity, Dietary Intake, and Nutritional Status: Analysis of Waves 2 and 3,” describes the changes that occurred in the sample subset of households between data collection Round 2 in January 2002 and Round 3 in July 2002 and examines the associations of changes in food insecurity, economic, dietary, and anthropometric variables. Preliminary results indicate that the household food security measurement tool does capture the differences among household food insecurity status at a given time and changes in food insecurity status over time.

Food Insecurity Measurement and Validation Study in Bangladesh

FANTA, in collaboration with Tufts University, finalized the *Food Insecurity Measurement and Validation Study in Bangladesh* report during Project Year Five. The study concludes that the approach to constructing a direct measure of hunger and food security as used in the U.S. can also be applied in a developing country context and that the current understanding of food insecurity as a theoretical construct is a valid basis on which to design policy and project interventions aimed at resolving the problem in different parts of the world. The module of nine questions constructed for use in Bangladesh passed all the validation tests applied to the U.S. module and is transparent in both its underlying concepts and the meaning of the questions used. The nine questions not only measure the prevalence of food insecurity, but also give an indication of its severity and how it may change over time. While the validation study itself was time-consuming and elaborate, its adaptation to new settings will be relatively easy.

3.3.1.c. FAM/FANTA Household Access Indicator Guide

FANTA is working with FAM to assist the PVOs design a guide to select M&E food access indicators that effectively measure Title II development program impacts. Such a guide could also be used more broadly for non-Title II food security programming, particularly in food access.

Food Access Review Paper and Indicator Guide

In Project Year Five, FANTA, in collaboration with FAM, organized a workshop for the Title II CSs to develop the *Food Access Indicator Guide*. The workshop's purpose was to explain to CSs the role of access in Title II food aid and food security programming, identify gaps in measuring food access effects and impacts, and review the common program intervention activities and ways of measuring outcomes of these interventions, in terms of both effect and impact indicators. Following the workshop, FANTA and its partners produced a report on how Title II PVOs address and monitor access to food in their Title II DAPs. The second phase will identify good practices for monitoring food access and adapt field-tested measurement tools for access indicators that are appropriate for use by Title II field staff.

3.3.2. Measuring infant and child feeding behaviors

Optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) is an aspect of care that leads to improved nutrition, health, and development of the child. Improving the definition and measurement of IYCF practices in the six- through 23-month period will help advocate for increased focus on this important determinant of child nutrition, in addition to improving the ability of program implementers to define the magnitude of the problem in their program context and monitor and report on improvements in IYCF practices.

Process for the Promotion of Child Feeding

During the first quarter, FANTA provided extensive comments to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) on its draft manual, *Process for the Promotion of Child Feeding* (ProPAN). The ProPAN manual describes a step-by-step process for the qualitative and quantitative assessment of ICF practices, including data collection, analysis, and interpretation and guidance on how to design and evaluate an intervention that aims to improve IYCF. It also includes quantitative data analysis software. The intended audience of the manual is ministries of health, NGOs, and bi-lateral and international organizations.

3.3.2.a. Knowledge, Practice, and Coverage Survey (KPC) Infant and Child Feeding Indicator

Infancy and early childhood are critical, vulnerable periods when adequate nutrition is essential for growth and development. In addition to prenatal interventions, early interventions in the first two years of life show the most promise for promoting child growth, health, and development. During these first two years, the linked effects of poverty, inadequate household access to food,

infectious disease, and inadequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices can result in illness, growth faltering, nutrient deficiencies, delayed development, and death.

The KPC tool is used widely by PVOs implementing child survival and food security programs to undertake problem assessments, conduct baseline surveys, and evaluate the impact of MCHN programs. The recently revised KPC 2000+ tool includes a module on IYCF and nutrition. With support from GH, FANTA has been collaborating with ORC MACRO's CSTS, CORE, and PVOs working on child survival and health activities to improve the use and interpretation of infant- and child-feeding data from KPC surveys.

In USAID-funded child survival programs, KPC surveys are used as a tool for gathering quantitative information on a range of practices, including complementary feeding; at present, the KPC questionnaire includes a set of questions about complementary feeding. Respondents are asked about the frequency of feeding and the foods and liquids given to a selected child under two years of age on the previous day.

Appropriate Complementary Feeding of Children 6 Through 23 Months

During the first quarter of Project Year Five, FANTA, in collaboration with its partner IFPRI, completed the report *Appropriate Complementary Feeding of Children 6 Through 23 Months: Suggested indicators using the KPC 2000+*. The report was circulated to a wide audience of stakeholders, including USAID, PVOs, and CAs. FANTA subsequently organized a meeting with the stakeholders and gain consensus on the suggested indicators for the KPC 2000+ survey tool.

3.3.2.b. Measuring caring behaviors

FANTA, in collaboration with IFPRI, wrote and published a report, *Strengthening the Analysis of Infant and Child Feeding Information in the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS): A Case Study Using the Ethiopia DHS 2000*. A companion piece, *Recommended Tabulation Guidelines for Displaying Complementary Feeding Data When Using the Demographic and Health Surveys*, that presents suggested tabulation guidelines for use with DHS data from the most recent round of surveys, the MEASURE DHS+, was developed. These tabulation guidelines reflect the experience of the authors in analyzing infant- and child-feeding data from the Ethiopia survey, as well as their experience adapting procedures developed with the Ethiopia data to the Peru data set. The focus in this document is on complementary feeding practices for children age six through 23 months.

3.4. The use of food aid to strengthen household and community response to HIV/AIDS

3.4.1. HIV/AIDS nutritional care and support

Nutrition and ART

During Project Year Five, FANTA published its seventh Technical Note, entitled *Food and Nutrition Implications of Antiretroviral Therapy in Resource Limited Settings*. The REDSO/ESA-supported Technical Note examines the relationship between nutrition and antiretroviral (ARV) drug efficacy and describes the effects of specific food-drug combinations in HIV/AIDS treatment. It presents nutrition guidelines to CSs, PVOs, and stakeholders for ARV program design and management. FANTA, REDSO, and RCQHC are currently developing field-level materials to assist health care providers to address nutritional implications of ART based on the Technical Note. FANTA is disseminating the Technical Note via its website and hard-copy.

Sharing HIV/AIDS Lessons Learned

FANTA prepared and submitted a profile of the project's HIV/AIDS activities for *USAID Project Profiles: Children Affected by AIDS*, published by USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS and the Synergy Project. The Project Profiles documents USAID's activities related to children affected by HIV/AIDS and is used to facilitate information exchange and networking, guide the provision of technical support, and track activities for reporting to partners and the U.S. Congress.

FANTA participated in the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS Implementation Working Group semiannual meeting and working groups on M&E, care and support, orphans and vulnerable children, and greater involvement of PLWHA. FANTA summarized the food and nutrition components of HIV/AIDS care and support and recommended emphasis on nutritional care and support, food and nutrition implications of ART, food aid, and food security constraints to care and support.

FANTA drafted and revised language for a USAID strategy on HIV/AIDS, food, and nutrition in response to GH and FFP requests. The document responds to recent legislation directing USAID to integrate food and nutrition interventions into HIV/AIDS programs. FANTA provided text on strategic approaches related to nutritional care and support for infected individuals, links between food security and the disease, ARVs, M&E, and background on the relationship between HIV/AIDS, food, and nutrition.

Compendium of Promising Practices

In October 2002, USAID organized the conference HIV/AIDS: a Humanitarian and Development Crisis, at which FANTA presented its support of national guidelines for nutritional care and support to PLWHA in Uganda. Since then, USAID's Africa Bureau has been working to produce a compendium guide to useful practices for addressing the challenges of PVOs and

NGOs working in HIV/AIDS in Africa. For this resource, the PVO-USAID steering committee requested that organizations, including FANTA, identify and write about their promising practices in the area of HIV/AIDS and development. These practices were compiled and published as *Multisectoral Responses to HIV/AIDS: A Compendium of Promising Practices from Africa* to stimulate further discussion about how to adapt these and other useful practices to local contexts. (See more on the compendium in Section 3.9.)

Nutrition Education and the Food and Agriculture Organization

FANTA participated in a meeting organized by AED's Center of Nutrition, with several FAO staff: the Chief of Nutrition Programs, the Nutrition Officer, and the U.S. National Coordinator for World Food Day. FANTA made a presentation on its activities relating to nutrition and HIV/AIDS education, such as the pre-service training module for trainers in medical and public health schools. The meeting's purpose was to explore collaboration between AED and FAO in the area of nutrition education. One outcome was that the Coordinator for World Food Day agreed to include FANTA and AED publications in the packages of material to be disseminated globally on the next World Food Day.

Defining the Role of Food Aid

FANTA presented discussion points for the International Workshop on Defining the Role of Food Aid in Contributing to Sustainable Food Security in Berlin, with the objective of critically examining the design and implementation of food aid programs. Guidelines for responsible use were developed by workshop participants and shared with the Food Aid Convention, informing the World Trade Organization negotiations and the Right to Food Movement. Working group presenters discussed relevant aspects of each topic, shared practical knowledge and experience (e.g., problems, challenges, positive and negative impacts), and suggested questions to provoke discussion and engage participants. The HIV/AIDS Working Group drafted a set of principles founded in the provision of food aid to food insecure populations and not specifically those infected with HIV/AIDS.

Southern Africa Protracted Relief and Recovery

FANTA met with WFP in Berlin to discuss a Southern Africa regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Program in Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Mozambique. FANTA will participate in an appraisal mission in one country, most likely Zambia, to assess the role of food aid in relief and transition programming in HIV/AIDS contexts, compliance with local government and UN strategies, local capacity-building, and long-term efforts. Drawing on experience and findings from the *Food Aid for HIV/AIDS Mitigation Guide*, FANTA will assist in the design of WFP country action plans and implementation guidelines.

Soybean Workshop

In response to a request from FFP, FANTA prepared talking points on HIV/AIDS, food, and nutrition for the DCHA Assistant Administrator's participation in the American Soybean Association's Midwest PVO Workshop. Content focused on HIV/AIDS-food-nutrition

interactions, food and nutrition interventions to support care and impact mitigation, and FFP's approaches to addressing the pandemic

Discussion Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

During Project Year Five, FANTA staff took on the moderator's role for ProNut-HIV, a discussion group on nutrition and HIV/AIDS as part of an AED collaboration with SATELLIFE, a global health information network. ProNut-HIV is a new electronic forum for sharing up-to-date information, knowledge, and experiences on nutrition and HIV/AIDS. The discussion group enhances positive living through proper nutritional care and support by promoting dialogue between PLWHA, front-line workers, researchers, HIV/AIDS specialists, and policy-makers. Every week, a global audience of ProNut-HIV subscribers engage in lively email exchanges among readers in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. Discussions and debates range from the use of heat-treated breastmilk to nutritional supplements for PLWHA. At present, the forum focuses primarily on the nutritional care and support of HIV-positive mothers and children.

World Initiative for Soy in Human Health Symposium

In February 2003, FANTA was invited to participate on a select panel of discussants for the Symposium on Food Aid and HIV/AIDS Nutrition organized by the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH). The audience included FFP, NGOs, and members of WISHH. Panelists included representatives from USAID, IFPRI, and NIH. The symposium's objective was to encourage an open dialogue between FFP, its stakeholders, and the soybean industry on topics related to food aid and nutrition. FANTA's presentation addressed food security and nutrition related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The presentation discussed the types of nutrition guidelines available, their applicability to food aid programs in the context of HIV/AIDS, and the issues and challenges in using food as food (i.e., direct distribution) in the context of HIV/AIDS.

3.4.2. Food security and food aid interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS

Technical Note

FANTA published and disseminated the Technical Note *HIV/AIDS Mitigation: Using What We Already Know* during Project Year Five. It presents a range of promising practices derived from the broader food security and development experience that can be applied to HIV/AIDS mitigation efforts. The information informs program staff about the critical socioeconomic impacts and constraints most likely experienced in HIV/AIDS-affected environments. The Technical Note concludes with appropriate program designs and modifications to mitigate these impacts. (See more on Technical Notes in Sections 2.1.3., 3.4.1., and 3.9 and in Table 5.)

Talking Points for the USAID Administrator

FANTA drafted a set of talking points on HIV/AIDS and food security for FFP to provide to USAID's Administrator, in preparation for the Administrator's meeting in March with the WFP Executive Director. FANTA's technical guidance in this area is vital, being that it is well-placed

to influence FFP and WFP with multi-sectoral research, analysis, and programming strategies. The talking points were drawn from FANTA's Technical Note, *HIV/AIDS Mitigation: Using What We Already Know*.

3.5. Setting targets for improvements in nutritional status

Malnutrition and Child Survival in Developing Countries Presentation

Enhancing child survival has long been a major health and development goal for USAID. This focus appears to have intensified in recent years, in part due to the current emphasis on performance-based management and evaluation strategies. In December, FANTA organized a presentation by Professor David Pelletier of Cornell University on Malnutrition and Child Survival in Developing Countries: Estimating Lives Saved and Developing Policy. The presentation was a follow-up to the FANTA-supported presentation Professor Pelletier gave last year on malnutrition and child mortality and is based on an article soon to be published in the *Journal of Nutrition*. The presentation focused on a methodology for estimating the number of lives saved by improvements in general malnutrition, policy implications, and an approach for deciding the most appropriate strategies to increase child survival.

Simulation of Lives Saved for Ethiopia from Reductions in Child Malnutrition

The recent FANTA publication, *Changes in Child Survival are Strongly Associated with Changes in Malnutrition in Developing Countries* by Dr. Pelletier and Dr. Frongillo, examines the relationship between changes in child and under-five mortality rates in developing countries over the past three decades and evaluates changes in the general nutritional status of children during the same period. Building on earlier work, the report uses population-level, rather than child-level, estimates of mortality and malnutrition, examines dynamic relationships (i.e., changes in malnutrition, changes in mortality), and uses a much larger data set of developing countries.

Ethiopia experiences chronic and acute malnutrition that is among the highest in the world. In the national Demographic and Health Survey in 2000, 47 percent of under-five children were underweight (i.e., weight/age below -2 SD). This is 20 times greater than would be expected in a healthy population. For stunting, 52 percent were below -2 standard deviations for height-for-age. Deaths for 1,000 live births for the zero through four years old age group numbered 166, and infant mortality was 97 per 1,000 live births.

Using the Pelletier and Frongillo formula to predict lives saved and impact on under-five mortality with reductions of undernutrition in children under the age of five, FANTA completed an analysis of *Simulation of Lives Saved for Ethiopia from Reductions in Child Malnutrition*, which estimates the lives that may be saved if Ethiopia were to achieve reduction in general malnutrition.

3.6. Effectiveness of preventative vs. recuperative approaches in nutrition interventions

No activity to report.

3.7. Training workshops

Table 2: Training Activities in Project Year Five

Title	Location	Date	Duration	Participants
▪ Food Security and Emergency	Columbia University	February 3	3 hours	60
▪ West Africa Title II Monitoring and Evaluation	Dakar, Senegal	March 31	4 days	46
▪ Food Security and Emergency	Johns Hopkins University	April 22	3 hours	50
▪ Consortium for Development Relief in Angola M&E Plan Workshop	Lobito, Angola	June 3-5	3 days	21
▪ New Complementary Feeding Guidelines	CORE Annual Meeting	May	2 hours	20
▪ Using M&E to Catalyze Networks	CORE Annual Meeting	May	2 hours	20
▪ Lessons Learned: Strategies for Behavior Change and the Value Added of Partnerships	CORE Annual Meeting	May	2 hours	20
▪ LQAS vs. Cluster for KPC	CORE Annual Meeting	May	2 hours	20
▪ Silent Nutrition USAID The Silent "N": Integrating Nutrition into Agriculture, Food Security, and Food Aid Programs	Ronald Regan Building	June 30	2 hours	40
▪ CSHGP Mini-University Technical Nutrition Presentations	Johns Hopkins University	June	6 hours	40

3.8. Information-sharing and communications

FANTA's communications strategy has a number of goals: expand the knowledge base, foster policy dialogue, build linkages, and increase awareness of food security and nutrition issues. To this end, FANTA made its presence known in a variety of ways over the last project year, publishing print and electronic media, presenting at local and international conferences and meetings, maintaining regular outreach to media and online databases, and responding to global requests for publication dissemination.

Technical Notes Series

FANTA published and disseminated five Technical Notes during Project Year Five, including three during the first quarter. *HIV/AIDS Mitigation: Using What We Already Know* presents a range of promising practices derived from the broader food security and development experience that can be applied to HIV/AIDS mitigation efforts. A second Technical Note, *Dietary Diversity as a Household Food Security Indicator*, shows that dietary diversity is a good indicator of the access dimension of household food security. This publication is part of a broader set of activities aimed at developing user-friendly, cost-effective approaches to measure changes in dietary quantity and quality at the household and individual level. The third Technical Note, *The Use of Compact Foods in Emergencies*, is based on a paper written at the request of USAID for the National Academy of Sciences. It provides a brief overview of the growth of compact foods in emergencies, highlights the key issues and considerations on their use, and identifies gaps. The focus of this publication is on compact foods used in the initial stages of an emergency, rather than those designed specifically for the severely malnourished.

A Review of the Title II Development Food Aid Program, FANTA's only Technical Note published during the third quarter, summarizes the *Report of the Food Aid and Food Security Assessment*.

FANTA published one Technical Note, *Food and Nutrition Implications of Antiretroviral Therapy in Resource Limited Settings*, during the fourth quarter. It examines the relationship between nutrition and ARV drug efficacy and describes the effects of specific food-drug combinations in HIV/AIDS treatment while presenting guidelines for ARV program design and management. Each of FANTA's Technical Notes is available both in print and on the web at www.fantaproject.org. See more on Technical Notes in Sections 2.1.3., 3.4.1., and 3.4.2 and in Table 5.

Occasional Papers Series

FANTA, in conjunction with FFP, published its first Occasional Paper, *Addressing the "In" in Food Insecurity*, to support the development of FFP's new Strategic Plan and analyze the implications of major trends in poverty and malnutrition for USAID food security programming. The paper argues for a conceptual shift that explicitly acknowledges the risks that constrain progress towards enhanced food security and directly addresses the vulnerability of food insecure households and communities. Enhancing people's resiliency to overcome shocks, building people's capacity to transcend food insecurity with a more durable and diverse livelihood base, and increasing human capital will result in long-term sustainable improvements in food security.

The second in FANTA's series of Occasional Papers developed for FFP, *Integrating Relief and Development to Accelerate Reductions in Food Insecurity in Shock-Prone Areas*, concludes that food aid interventions should be carried out within a conceptual framework that explicitly recognizes vulnerability within a pre- and post-shock context. The paper argues that:

- Operationalization of a fuller food security definition that pays explicit attention to risk and vulnerability will strengthen programs that aim to reduce food insecurity;

- Relief and development programs play important roles in meeting current food needs and reducing the risk of losing the ability to meet needs in the future; and
- Explicit recognition of the pre- and post-shock continuum (i.e., that a post-shock environment at some stage becomes a pre-shock environment) will promote the ability of relief and development programs to collaborate more effectively.

FANTA in the Classroom

In February, AED's Senior Vice-President for Global Health, Population, and Nutrition invited representatives from FANTA to present on the topic of food, nutrition, and hunger at the Stanford University Government Fellowship program in Washington, D.C.

Since 2001, FANTA's Emergency Advisor has been a guest lecturer for the Boston University course on Health in Humanitarian Emergencies. This year, the Nutrition and Food Aid in Emergencies module and syllabus were designed by FANTA and presented by the core course staff.

In February, FANTA's director gave a lecture on food security, HIV/AIDS, and the role of food aid to 30 graduate students at the Institute of Human Nutrition, College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in New York City.

UN Standing Committee on Nutrition Meeting in India

In March, FANTA traveled to Chennai, India to attend a meeting of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), which works with UN agencies, bilateral organizations, and civil society groups on nutrition and food security activities. This was the thirtieth session of the SCN, with over 300 attendees. FANTA participated in sessions devoted to emergencies, HIV/AIDS, M&E, ICF, rights-based approaches, and bilateral coordination. At the request of PPM, FANTA funded participation for one representative from the Ghana Ministry of Health, where a number of USAID-funded activities have been facilitated by Ministry activity. SCN provides an opportunity to share FANTA lessons learned, publications, and materials that have direct relevance to the global leadership function of USAID. It also provides concentrated exposure to current nutrition and food security policy and program issues.

International Nutrition Foundation

The International Nutrition Foundation (INF) and its Iron Deficiency Project Advisory Service (IDPAS) requested that FANTA provide information on current activities related to iron, zinc, and folic acid. FANTA provided synopses on PROFILES modeling, RUTF, HIV/AIDS nutritional care and support, food-based approaches, analysis and interpretation of complementary feeding data to more easily capture the consumption of iron-rich foods, the *Women's Nutrition Indicator Guide*, and tips on improving the use of fortified foods for supplementary feeding through the FANTA ration guide and the USAID CRG. Once collected from various organizations and projects, this information will contribute to a global summary, which will be presented and distributed to nutritionists and program leaders from UN agencies, major bilateral organizations, and NGOs.

Technical Advisory Group Meeting

In December 2002, USAID, PVOs, and research colleagues met at FANTA for a half-day TAG meeting to discuss strategies in nutrition programming, specifically two food-assisted approaches that have the greatest potential for public health impacts. FANTA has been working with WV and USAID in Haiti to conduct a study and develop and implement a full preventive model, comparing its impact over time to that of the traditional, recuperative model. The study team is composed of researchers from IFPRI and Cornell University and is in close collaboration with WV. The first presentation introduced the overall study, its rationale, and its research design. The second presented results from a recently completed formative study that identified key maternal behaviors in child feeding in Haiti, and illustrated how those findings were used in both the preventive and recuperative models to improve the nutrition messages transmitted to mothers. The last presentation offered an application of the Trials for Improved Practices (TIPs) methodology used by the study to elaborate recipes that would be affordable, feasible, and nutritionally adequate for the child's diet.

FANTA held a TAG seminar at AED in June 2003, with approximately 50 participants from USAID, PVOs, and CAs. Presentations by representatives from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health and FANTA focused on interactions between ART and food and nutrition, knowledge gaps that need to be addressed as ART scales up, and implications for programs and service providers. Following the presentations, participants discussed challenges and opportunities for addressing ART-food interactions in programs, the need for advocacy to raise awareness about the nutritional implications of ART, and other issues raised in the presentations.

International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care

FANTA presented its work on East and Southern Africa capacity-building in nutrition and HIV/AIDS (e.g., pre-service module on nutrition and HIV/AIDS, ARVs and nutrition Technical Note) to the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care's (IAPAC's) Executive Director, who expressed interest in FANTA's work on nutrition and HIV/AIDS and will use resources from FANTA's website for IAPAC's global training program.

International Food and Nutrition Forum Meeting

In September, FANTA attended the International Food and Nutrition Forum Meeting hosted by the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C. The meeting was devoted to food fortification in developing countries and was attended by U.S. government agencies (e.g., USDA, National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Association), donors (e.g., USAID), UN agencies (e.g., PAHO), PVOs, and academic/research organizations. Following an introduction, the day-long meeting presented the WHO report on "Food Fortification for Micronutrient Malnutrition Control," which provides guidelines for single- and multi-micronutrient fortification. Discussions proceeded on the future role of the forum and planning for the next meeting in December.

FANTA Project Website

The FANTA website connects visitors not only to FANTA's work and publications, but also to other organizations and projects' websites and other relevant information available on the web. Throughout Project Year Five, FANTA has fully integrated new content into the format created during the Project Year Four. The new design allows greater site expansion, and the FANTA website has continued to expand its information and linkages to other resources. Seventy-six webpages were modified or created, directly increasing the website traffic for the year. The number of visitors to the site has reached record highs, with fourth quarter reports showing an average 343 visitors per day—a 200 percent increase over visitor counts at the beginning of the fiscal year. All FANTA documents are available for download on the website.

Expansion possibilities for the site continue, with ideas and requests coming from technical staff and stakeholders. Future website activities include revising the focus areas and related information, as well as modifying the navigation area to provide visitors with a larger viewing area for content.

Table 3: Website Activity in Project Year Five

Yearly Activity FY2003 [October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2003] www.fantaproject.org	
General Information for FY2003	
Visits to web site	102,603
Number of web pages viewed by visitors	328,919
Average number of visitors per day	281
Average number of pages viewed per day	900
Top Ten Web Pages for FY2003	
1. Home page	www.fantaproject.org
2. Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide	www.fantaproject.org/publications/anthropom.shtml
3. Focus Area: Monitoring & Evaluation	www.fantaproject.org/focus/monitoring.shtml
4. Focus Area: HIV/AIDS	www.fantaproject.org/focus/hiv_aids.shtml
5. Focus Area: Maternal/Child Health and Nutrition	www.fantaproject.org/focus/maternalchild.shtml
6. About FANTA	www.fantaproject.org/about/index.shtml
7. Focus Area: Agriculture and Food Security	www.fantaproject.org/publications/foodsec.shtml
8. Links	www.fantaproject.org/links/
9. Focus Area: Women's Nutrition	www.fantaproject.org/focus/womensnutrition.shtml
10. FANTA Publications Index	www.fantaproject.org/publications/index.shtml
Top Ten PDF Downloads for FY2003	
1. Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide	
2. The Nutritional Needs and Status of Adolescents	
3. Women's Nutrition and the Life-cycle Approach	
4. Sampling Guide	
5. Women's Nutrition during Pregnancy & Lactation	
6. Data Analysis Workshop 2000, Understanding Z-scores	
7. Food Security Indicators and Framework for Use in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Food Aid Projects	
8. Report of the Food Aid & Food Security Assessment (FAFSA)	

9. Food for Education Indicator Guide
10. HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutrition, Care and Support

Table 4: FANTA Deliverables in Project Year Five

Title	Author(s)	Status
Technical Reports		
Community Therapeutic Care (CTC) Monitoring Effectiveness Component Year One Brief	Caroline Grobler-Tanner	Final
Simulation of Lives Saved for Ethiopia from reductions in child malnutrition	Bruce Cogill	Draft
Recommended Tabulation Guidelines for Displaying Complementary Feeding Data When Using the Demographic and Health Surveys (MEASURE DHS+ Series) IFPRI Task Order 3	Mary Arimond Marie T. Ruel	Final
Food Security in Madagascar: A Situation Analysis	Gilles Bergeron	Final
Changes in Child Survival are Strongly Associated with Changes in Malnutrition in Developing Countries	David Pelletier Edward Frongillo	Final
Afghanistan Civil Servant Salary Supplement Program Review	David Hagen	Final
Development of a Behavior Change Communications Program to Prevent Malnutrition in the Central Plateau of Haiti: Results and Challenges from a Formative Research Study	Purnima Menon Cornelia Loechl Gretel Pelto Marie Ruel	Final
Listening to and Learning from Clients: The Use of Qualitative Methods for Progress Tracking Freedom From Hunger, Task Order 4	Barbara MkNelly	Final
Tajikistan Food Aid Review	Patricia Bonnard Caroline Tanner	Draft
Haiti Joint Baseline Study	Gilles Bergeron Megan Deitchler	Draft
Relations among Wealth, Food Insecurity, Dietary Intake, and Nutritional Status: Analysis of Waves 2 and 3	Cornell University IFPRI	Draft
Food Insecurity Measurement and Validation Study in Bangladesh	Tufts University WV	Draft

Guides		
Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide, 2003 Revised Edition	Bruce Cogill	Final
Women's Nutrition Indicator Guide	Sandra Remancus	Draft
Commodities Reference Guide	USAID/DCHA/FFP	Final
Vitamin A Guide	Helen Keller Institute	Draft
HIV/AIDS Mitigation Guide	Jindra Cekan	Draft
Technical Notes		
Technical Note No. 7 Food and Nutrition Implications of Antiretroviral Resource Therapy (ART) in Resource-Limited Settings	Eleonore Seumo Tony Castleman Bruce Cogill	Final
Technical Note No. 6 A Review of the Title II Development Food Aid Program	Annette Sheckler	Final
Technical Note No. 5 HIV/AIDS Mitigation: Using What We Already Know	Patricia Bonnard	Final
Technical Note No. 4 Dietary Diversity as a Household Food Security Indicator	Annette Sheckler	Final
Technical Note No. 3 Use of Compact Foods in Emergencies	Caroline Grobler-Tanner	Final
Prevention Versus Recuperation: Focusing on the Under-Twos	Annette Sheckler	Draft
Child Malnutrition and Mortality	Annette Sheckler	Draft
Improving Title II DAPs	Patricia Bonnard	Draft
Adoption of Improved Agricultural Practices: Defining the Practice and Indicator	Patricia Bonnard	Draft
HIV/AIDS Lens	Patricia Bonnard Eleonore Seumo Annette Sheckler	Draft
Management of Food and Nutrition Implications of Anti-retroviral Therapy in Resource-Poor Settings	Eleonore Seumo Tony Castleman Bruce Cogill	Draft

Occasional Papers		
Occasional Paper No. 2 Integrating Relief and Development to Accelerate Reductions in Food Insecurity in Shock-Prone Areas	Lawrence Haddad Tim Frankenberger	Final
Occasional Paper No. 1 Addressing the “In” in Food Insecurity	Patrick Webb Beatrice Rogers	Final
Workshop Proceedings		
Proceedings of the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Workshop, July 23-26, 2002	FANTA	Final
Training Materials		
Pre-service Training Module on Nutritional Care and Support for People Living with HIV/AIDS	Eleonore Seumo Tony Castleman	Draft
Periodicals		
Changes in Child Survival Are Strongly Associated with Changes in Malnutrition in Developing Countries Published in the <i>Journal of Nutrition</i> , January 2003	David Pelletier Edward Frongillo	Final
RNIS Bulletin, Issue No. 39	UN Sub-Committee on Nutrition	Final
RNIS Bulletin, Issue No. 40	UN Sub-Committee on Nutrition	Final
Reports		
SO4 Annual Report for FANTA’s HIV/AIDS activities	Eleonore Seumo Tony Castleman	Final
Web Work		
Commodity Reference Guide updates Updates added to the USAID/Food for Peace web site	Megan Deitchler Heather Finegan	Final
Web Address	Title	Status
www.fantaproject.org/publications/malnutrition03.shtml	Caring for Severely Malnourished Children	New

www.fantaproject.org/publications/occasionals.shtml	Office of Food for Peace Occasional Papers Series	New
www.fantaproject.org/events/tag0617.shtml	Event: TAG Meeting “Food and Nutrition Implications of Antiretroviral Therapy”	New
www.fantaproject.org/publications/anthropom.shtml	Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide, 2003 Revised Edition	New
www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/bookmark.pdf	Anthropometry Bookmark	New
www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/nutARV_Jun03.pdf	Food and Nutrition Implications of Antiretroviral Resource Therapy (ART) in Resource- Limited Settings [DRAFT]	New
www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/ARVs_Jun03.pdf	Presentation: ART and Nutrition, Managing the Nutritional Implications of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)	New
www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/nutARV_Jun03.pdf	Raiten Presentation: Nutritional Considerations in the Use of ARV/HAART in Resource Limited Settings	New
www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/ffpOP2.pdf	Integrating Relief and Development to Accelerate Reductions in Food Insecurity in Shock-Prone Areas	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/ffp0P1.shtml	Addressing the “In” in Food Insecurity	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/fsmadagascar.shtml	Food Security in Madagascar: A Situation Analysis	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/childmalnutrition_02.shtml	Changes in Child Survival Are Strongly Associated with Changes in Malnutrition in Developing Countries	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/tn1.shtml	Credit with Education and Title II Programs	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/tn2.shtml	Title II Evaluation Scopes of Work	New

http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/tn3.shtml	Use of Compact Foods in Emergencies	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/tn4.shtml	Dietary Diversity as a Household Food Security Indicator	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/tn5.shtml	HIV/AIDS Mitigation: Using What We Already Know	New
http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/tn6.shtml	A Review of the Title II Development Food Aid Program	New